

achtree-online.com



(Aken)

# MOTHERS Are Always SPECIAL



Not radiant madonnas, not silver-haired saints but ordinary women, stumbling along with neither special know-how nor a special vision, rearing children as well as they can. Some of them aren't exactly carnations, notable for their sweetness and purity, but nearly all of them have had their lives illumined at least for a time by active, working, mountain-moving love. This book is about some of these very special mothers."

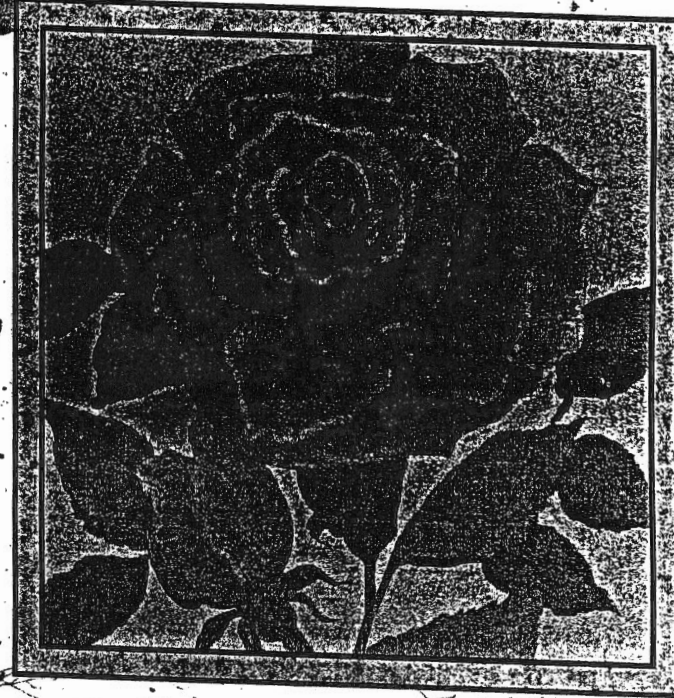
SIBLEY

MOTHERS Are Always SPECIAL

5/14

306.8743  
SIBLEY

Celestine Sibley



# MOTHERS Are Always SPECIAL

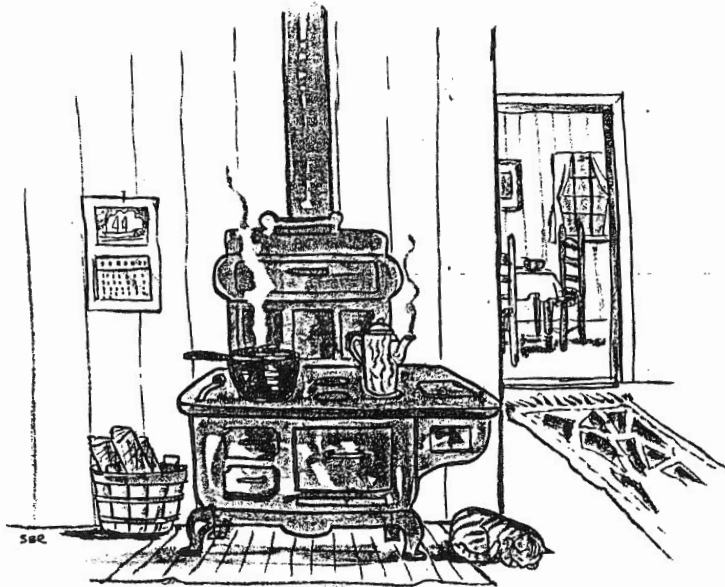
PASCAGOULA

MAY 28 2004

51



## Chapter 3



ON A WINDY MARCH day in 1940 motorists on the beach drive in the beautiful old Mississippi town of Biloxi saw a strange procession of small boats moving across the choppy waters of the inner harbor.

The little shrimp boat, the *Sea Queen*, led the way, her deck scrubbed, her paint gleaming and her hatch piled high with a great bank of flowers.

One at a time the others came — fishing boats and seagoing freight boats and, wallowing in their wake, skiffs and sailboats and little launches. They moved slowly, each one freighted with flowers which contrasted brilliantly with the somber garb of the people who ran the boats or rode on them.

At the foot of Oak Street the *Sea Queen* docked. The other boats tied up close by and their passengers climbed out and stood with heads bared and faces taut with grief as the boatmen moved forward and lifted the *Sea Queen's* cargo from its mooring of flowers.

Grandma Aken, the Gulf coast's most famous

ISBN

### Celestine Sibley

islander, was on her way to a mainland resting place, the old Biloxi cemetery.

The hundreds of people who lined the docks and crowded into the historic Episcopal Church of the Redeemer for the funeral included friends and neighbors among the Biloxi townspeople and, of course, a sprinkling of the curious who had heard of but never seen the colorful old woman.

But a surprising number of them were Grandma Aken's own — her children, her grandchildren, her great- and great-great-grandchildren. For in the century she lived (actually one hundred years, six months, three days, her descendants say), Harriet Watters Baker Aken reared seventeen children of her own and twenty-five that she had adopted. Her own descendants numbered thirty-eight grandchildren, forty-one great-grandchildren and twelve great-great-grandchildren and nobody tried to count the children and grandchildren of that vast company of little strangers that Grandma "took to raise."

They came from all parts of the United States to pay homage to the fantastic, iron-willed, old saltwater matriarch.

Most of those in the funeral procession from Deer Island were Grandma's "boys" — island-reared fishermen and boatmen, their faces reddened by winter winds and nearly tropical summer suns, their hands roughened by icy lines, the leads on cast nets and oyster tongs.

They came out of love, loyalty and a fierce kind of gratitude.

But the old lady they were to bury was no lavender-

### Mothers Are Always Special

scented, lace-fichued saint. There are no monuments to her now and there were no schools or hospitals or parks being named for her then. Her good works, far from being an inspiration to her fellow citizens, warmly applauded and financially supported by church and civic club, were sometimes subject to question.

Why did Harriet Aken always have *boys* with her? Her foster children numbered twenty-four boys and one girl. Why?

The answer was easy for her detractors: Work, of course. She gave a home and a living to boys so they could tend the cattle and butcher the meat, fish, and hunt and till the soil for her. Oh, sure, Grandma Aken was good to them, said the cynical. She had a free labor force. Why, that old lady was as tough as a marlin spike and as handy with shotgun and rifle as a man!

And like a lot of criticism it had truth in it — truth taken out of context and distorted and misunderstood.

Grandma Aken *did* take boys instead of girls to live with her on Deer Island and she *did* give them work, plenty of work, to do. She *was* as tough as a marlin spike and, as one of her grandchildren put it, not afraid of "anything or anybody, natural or supernatural."

She had dealt with Union soldiers, Confederate deserters, snakes and hurricanes in her time and when her boys misbehaved she "laid the dogwood" to them without worrying a moment about warping their little personalities. When poachers moved in on her oyster beds she grabbed her rifle and ran them off, single-

**Celestine Sibley**

mindful and comfortable with the knowledge that she might have to kill one or two to teach them a lesson.

Beyond these obvious and well-known truths, there was another known only to her own, her children and the forlorn little troop that came out of New Orleans orphanages, "asylums" and broken homes. There was in Harriet Aken a deep belief in children, in what they could do and what they could be. And there was boundless giving, of time and attention, of gaiety and good times, of such material things as she possessed.

Her detractors may have pointed out that it was ambitious charity since she wasn't a rich woman — not by the standards of the New Orleans millionaires whose white houses lined the beach drive. She certainly wasn't leisured, that doughty woman in the black skirt and the white "josie" blouse, who not only did all her own cooking, dishing up food for as many as forty people on Sunday, but raised, caught or killed most of it.

But she was richer than most of the rich and had time aplenty for what she considered important.

Harriet Watters married when she was twelve years old. She was the daughter of English settlers on Horn Island, Deer Island's neighbor to the southeast, and it was there that she met and married Peter Baker, the son of a lighthouse keeper. The young Bakers joined the older Watterses in the family cattle-raising enterprise on Horn Island, and later Harriet was to tell her children and grandchildren of their struggles to save their cows from the foraging Confederate soldiers first and then from the foraging Union forces when the Civil War started. The war was young when Harriet

*Mothers Are Always Special*

took her children and left Peter Baker.

Polite accounts of her life always say she "lost" him. Her granddaughter, Mrs. Ada Andrews, finds that an amusing delicacy since Grandma herself, unlike modern mothers, never tried to put a pretty face on her relationships. They separated and were divorced, says Mrs. Andrews, and this in a time when divorce was practically unheard of, particularly in the strongly Roman Catholic coastal towns.

Seafood and farm products were plentiful at their island home and the young mother had no difficulty feeding her family, especially since she didn't feel compelled to obey Confederate enjoiners against traffick-ing with the enemy. She had butter and eggs and fresh vegetables; the Yankees, who manned the gunboats anchored off neighboring Ship Island, had flour and sugar and coffee. Harriet took her provender and her children and under cover of darkness sailed out at night and effected a swap.

"She didn't care much for the Confederates any-how," said Mrs. Andrews. (A bold statement in the town where Jefferson Davis lived out his final years, where his home, Beauvoir, is still a shrine, and where his pew is marked with a brass plate in Mrs. Andrews' own church.) "They confiscated her cows and sometimes deserters would hide out on one of the islands and she'd take her gun and sit up all night to protect her supplies and stock from them. I think she got along better with the Yankees."

Actually most of the other people along that stretch of southern coastline had a live-and-let-live arrangement with their northern enemy. The peace was shat-



### Celestine Sibley

tered only once and that was when a small Federal patrol boat, traveling under a flag of truce, landed on the mainland at Biloxi to return a little girl it had rescued from a boat that had drifted out from shore. On the way back to Ship Island the patrol boat ran aground on Deer Island and some Southerners, apparently not understanding it had a mercy mission, opened fire on it with small arms.

When the tide rose and the patrol boat floated free the incident was duly reported to the Union garrison on Ship Island, where the commanding general saw it as the worst kind of violation of a truce. He ordered the immediate capture of Biloxi and three gunboats carrying a combined naval and army force of five hundred landed the next morning. Happily, the mayor met them with a handsome apology. Northern pride was placated and the Yankees returned to Ship Island without firing a shot.

About that time Harriet Baker was also aground on Deer Island, the beautiful five-mile stretch of white beaches, woods and Indian mounds that lies half a mile south of the Biloxi mainland.

She had married Joseph Aken, whose father, Albertus King Aken, bought 159 acres of the island from government bounty land in 1850, and whose mother, Jane, brought to the family estate 199 more island acres she acquired from the state of Mississippi for twenty-five cents each. They had a big turpentine operation on the island and Harriet and Joseph moved there to help them run it.

The house, made of cypress and yellow pine, is a rambling one-story building with a wide front veran-

### *Mothers Are Always Special*

dah facing Biloxi across the bay and a detached kitchen facing the Mississippi Sound in the rear. Great mossy live oak trees, their dark branches twisted by a century of hurricane winds, sheltered the house and continue to shelter it today, although it is now boarded up and overgrown with a tangle of weeds and vines.

The island soil away from the beaches and the shell mounds, on which the house was built, was rich, and Harriet Aken was a natural gardener. She always said the benign winds from the gulf gentled winter temperatures so it was possible to grow fine oranges and figs and plums for the beautiful English plum puddings she made in the wintertime and an almost year-round succession of vegetables, corn, beans, okra for her seafood gumbos and seasonings for her celebrated court bouillon. ("Coo-biyon," Grandma's children call this baked fish dish.) She raised chicken and pork and beef for her own table and supplemented them with game which she hunted and killed as competently as any man.

With the boom of Biloxi as both a winter and summer resort about the turn of the century, the Akens found a ready market for their surplus at the Biloxi Yacht Club and the swank Montross Hotel. And Harriet herself was frequently seen rowing across the bay to deliver oysters, geese, ducks or homegrown vegetables.

Both sets of children, the young Bakers and the young Akens, grew up. Grandchildren were coming along and the old house was always filled with them and their friends, particularly in the summertime. Even so, when Harriet went with one of her daughters

### Celestine Sibley

to visit a New Orleans orphanage one day she came home with a child — the first and only little girl she "took to raise."

Rhoda Louise Williams was eight years old. Her father had died at sea. Her mother died shortly afterward and no relatives came forward to claim her.

Something about the little girl went straight to Harriet's heart. The child, now seventy-three and one of only a handful of Grandma's children surviving, remembers it as a mystical moment when the old lady saw her, loved her and determined to have her for her own.

It was her special gift, this quality of making each child feel singled out, chosen.

"She chose me from one hundred and fifty orphans," an old man remembers. "I was ten years old. I never knew my father. My mother had to put me in a juvenile home. Grandma Aken saw me and I don't know why, with all those other boys there, but that was it: I was the one."

Over and over again Biloxi people saw the sturdy old woman get off the train holding a child's hand, or meeting a train to welcome a child. People heard of her and sent her children. Even Biloxi children who had good homes and devoted parents sometimes showed up on the island and stayed for weeks, touching home base on Saturdays when all the bigger children rowed to the mainland with their twenty-five cents' allowance to "go to the show."

Work, hard work and long hours of it, was the portion of every child on the island, but much of it was what would pass for recreation a generation later.

### Mothers Are Always Special

Knowing how to swim was a necessity for islanders. Grandma Aken expert herself long before it became stylish. She knew how to know how to swim, remembered the loss of a son from a fishing boat with a deep sense of grief and she taught all her young wards well. Rowing a boat to the mainland for kerosene and flour was fun and Grandma didn't mind if children dawdled a little but not to the detriment of her groceries.

"She sent me for meat one time when we ran out in the summertime and I got to playing chinies with some boys and nearly let it spoil in the heat. When I got back she laid the dogwood to me!"

To the last punishment, the boy recognized then, as he did of Harriet.

only whipped you when you needed it," her children and grandchildren report. And sometimes when it was a borderline case Grandpa Aken would intervene with an "Aw, Hannah . . ." (his name for her). Grandma would good-naturedly abandon the switch with a warning and take off on some project of her own.

She hated housework, except for cooking.

"She was much more at home with a cast net or a shrimper than she was in the house," her children will tell you. When it comes to cooking, ah, how she loved it!

Casual about religion herself, she was meticulous about sending her children across the bay to church and Sunday school and cheerfully paid tuition to a parochial school for those among her foster children who were Roman Catholics. She was confirmed in the Episcopal Church, but the bishop came to the island

**Celestine Sibley**

for the service, instead of vice versa. Once a month the rector of the Church of the Redeemer would row over to visit and would hold a service if Grandma's household numbered enough people at the time to warrant it. If the Catholic children had to miss school because of illness the nuns from the convent frequently rowed over to see them.

"Grandma always made them stay for a wonderful supper. She didn't make many frosted cakes but she could walk up to that old woodstove and turn out a pound cake or an apple dumpling or a boiled pudding that you'd never forget. She cooked Spanish and French and some English, too, because, of course, her parents were English."

Until he died in 1913 Joseph was always amused at visitors who expected life on the island to be austere. He had a stock answer for strangers who asked, "What do you find to eat?"

"South wind and sand pudding," Joseph replied.

Grandma was seventy-three when Joseph died and thought to be an old woman by her children and grandchildren. Her widowed daughter, Mrs. Ella Thompson, moved in with her and grandchildren built houses close by for company. But Harriet was healthy and vigorous and such ills as she had she treated with poultices and teas brewed out of her own little collection of herbs and medicinal plants. Her weathered old face became marked with sores her children thought were skin cancer and they urged her to let them take her across the bay to a doctor or into New Orleans to a celebrated cancer clinic.

She said she didn't have time, she'd take care of her

*Mothers Are Always Special*

complexion herself. Whatever she used, it worked and she had energy left over for taking more orphans to rear.

Quarter of a century before her death she gave up going to the mainland. She had outlived all her old friends.

"I walked all over town," she complained to her daughter Ella, "and I only saw three people I knew."

There was so much to do on the island. The weather was both her friend and her adversary and she had to teach all her children how to get ready for those autumnal hurricanes, at least one of which was usually expected to cover the thin sliver of sand and woodland completely. Hurricane Camille finally did destroy the house in 1969 but this was, of course, after Grandma Aken died. Before a storm actually struck the coast Grandma would be ready for it and pacing the beach to watch it arrive.

"She could tell by the pelicans," one of her foster children said. "When they came into the bay she started preparing."

She would lay in a supply of candles and cook food that would keep and taste good cold because a fire in the stove was risky in winds of hurricane force. She would drive the cattle to the high ground and have the boys secure the boats and then she would relax and enjoy the electric excitement of brutal winds and churning water.

She had little formal learning to pass on to her charges. She didn't philosophize or preach. She had an even cheerful disposition and she took it for granted that all the members of her household would

Celestine Sibley

have the same. She worked and believed that the ability to work prepared them for life away from the island. "Learn to do at least one thing well," she said, "and when you can better yourself I want you to go."

An old man, now retired, sat alone watching television cartoons in a little house on a back street in Biloxi. He had known want and uncertainty and the quirks and caprices of those who ran juvenile homes before Grandma "picked me." He tried to put his feeling about her into words.

He remembered much and was grateful for much and then he achieved real eloquence.

"She never, never, *never* let you go to bed hungry!" he said in a tone which made that a matchless achievement for any woman.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

SIBLEY  
FAMILY HISTORY  
OF  
OUR LINE  
IN  
AMERICA

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

DEDICATED  
TO  
OUR FAMILY HISTORIAN  
DAISIE ELEANOR DOWLING SNOW

AND ASSISTANTS  
SARAH JANE McCOY DOWLING  
ALICE LOUISE ROWELL STANTON  
FAYETTE MELISSA McCOY MOONEY  
ANNA SOLES MOONEY  
MILDRED ADA INEZ MOONEY BOLER  
ROBERT LOWELL BOLER  
MARY ELIZABETH BURNS WENTZEL





**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

THE SIBLEY COAT OF ARMS

The coat of arms of the Sibley (Sibly) family is described in Bernard Burke's General Armour: "Per pale azure and gules a griffin passant between three crescents argent". Azure (blue) signifies loyalty and truth. Gules (red) denotes military fortitude and magnanimity. Argent (silver) signifies peace and sincerity. The griffin symbolizes vigilance eagerness in pursuit and represents a valorous soldier whose generous nobility of soul is such that he will dare all dangers and even death rather than become captive. The crescent, or increscent moon, signifies one who has been enlightened and honored by the gracious aspect of his sovereign. It is also a token of participation in the Crusades.

The crest, a device sometimes added to the helmet, is a means of further identifying an individual or commemorating some specific event. In Fairbairn's crests of the Families of Great Britain is the description of a crest for the Sybyle family which has been adopted by some Sibleys in America: "Out of a ducal coronet a swan's head between spread wings". The ducal coronet is symbolic of military conquest and victory. The swan is the ensign of the poets and is an appropriate device for a lover of poetry and harmony or for a learned person. The spread wings are emblems of celerity, protection and parental card, cognizance and mobility. The crest is not shown in this book.

The motto of the Sibley family is found in Bolton's American Armory and translates, "To be and not to seem", taken from Sallust, the Roman historian and politician, who wrote, "Esse quam videri bonus malebat". He wished to be a good man rather than merely seem to be one. The Sibley family motto is also the motto of the State of North Carolina.

The real significance of this coat of arms is that the Sibley family has been noted for the willingness displayed by its members to render devoted self-sacrificing service, for their determination of purpose, for their sincerity of life and for the success attained by them in their undertakings, in which they preferred death to failure as they prosecuted important and laudable enterprises.

Generally, arms may be properly displayed only by those to who they were awarded and their direct descendants. None of the "original" Sibleys in America found in this compilation are known to have displayed arms, though they may have been entitled to do so. Consequently, it should not be inferred solely from the presence of a name herein that there is an entitlement to display the coat of arms.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

HISTORY  
OF THE  
SIBLEY FAMILY

Among the many families worthy of mention in the discussion of the development of the nation is one called Sibley. The list of notable members of the family, those who served in various positions of responsibility and made solid contributions to the cause of freedom, includes Colonel Timothy Sibley, Revolutionary soldier, (our Line) his son, Dr. John Sibley, a surgeon's mate in Wheelock's Regiment, newspaper publisher in Fayetteville, N. C., and a planter and Indian Agent in Louisiana under the Commission of Thomas Jefferson. George Champlin Sibley, son of Dr. John Sibley, was also an Indian Agent. He sparked the survey team that laid out the Sante Fe Trail, and he later founded Lindenwood College at St. Charles, Missouri. Then there was Solomon Sibley, an early pioneer in Michigan and Judge of the Supreme Court of Michigan. His son, Henry Hastings Sibley, was a Major General of Volunteers during the Civil War and was the first Governor of Minnesota. Jonas Sibley of Sutton, Massachusetts, was a U.S. Marshal, lawyer and Congressman. Josiah Sibley of Augusta, Georgia, was an eminent textiles manufacturer, cotton dealer and churchman. John Langdon Sibley of Union, Maine, was Librarian at Harvard University for many years. Hiram Sibley of Rochester, New York, was the founder of the Western Union Telegraph Company, a developer and co-founder of Cornell University and a large land owner. Richard Clay Sibley of Norfolk, Virginia, and New York City was a financier and founder of several large businesses. Henry Hopkins Sibley, a West Point graduate from Louisiana, was a Brigadier General in the Confederate States Army. Joseph Crocker Sibley of Pennsylvania was founder of the Signal Oil Company and a U.S. Congressman. Frederick William Sibley, son of Brigadier General Caleb Sibley of Massachusetts, graduated from West Point and became the Commandant of Cadets there. John Adams Sibley of Atlanta, Georgia, was a prominent banker and public spirited citizen during a long career in his State. Harper Sibley of Rochester, New York, a financier, became President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Charles Gald Sibley of Connecticut, a professor of ornithology, has made significant contributions to our knowledge of birds. There are many other Sibleys who have served in positions of trust and influence, from John Sibley, Selectman from Manchester, Massachusetts, to the present day.

The Sibley family can certainly be considered to be one of the "old" families in this country. It behooves all of us to examine our own standards, mores and goals to ensure that we are living up to the fine traditions established and passed on to us by our forefathers."

This page and the next two were taken from James Scarborough Sibley's The Sibley Family in America 1629-1982.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

John and Richard Sibley came to Salem, Massachusetts in 1629 in Winthrop's Fleet. These two men are original settlers whose families have spread across the entire country. John Sibley of Virginia was also one of the earliest Sibleys in North America whose descendents are now spread from coast to coast. At various times since 1629 other Sibleys whose connections with John and Richard Sibley are unknown have come directly from England to the United States or through Jamaica and Canada. the migrations of the population westward and southward from New England and Virginia as the continent was opened for settlement resulted in the separation of new families from their established home areas. Meager records in some places make it extremely difficult to identify living representatives of some branches of the family with the original settlers.

There are also people named Sibley in the United States whose ancestors brought other names from Europe. A Polish immigrant named Cibulskis changed his name to Sibley as did a Swiss named Zubli. Yet another named Bogues adopted the name Sibley after having been saved from drowning in the St. Lawrence River by a man named Sibley. A Dutch immigrant changed his name from Sibelink to Sibley. A Yugoslav immigrant changed his name from Serblin to Sibley.

The Sibleys are believed to be descendents of Scotch-English ancestors who brought the name to America with them. Those from England probably have a common ancestor somewhere in the archives of Great Britain. The kinship of all Sibleys in America has been alleged by various members of the family, but no one has demonstrated its validity through research in original sources in Great Britain.

John Langdon Sibley conducted extensive research into the origin of the Sibley family and included much of his work in his book, History of the Town of Union, Maine, published in 1851. This book contains a great amount of information concerning the descendents of Richard Sibley of Salem, Massachusetts and was the primary source for the data on this branch of the family. The following information is John Langdon Sibley's analysis of the name Sibley.

"The name SIBLEY may be compounded of the words SIB and LEA. the former means relationship or alliance; or, in earlier times, peace; and the latter, a field. Hence the words combined may mean kinsman's land. Perhaps several kinsmen lived together in the same place, or on the same lea. If the earlier meaning of the word SIB be adopted, the meaning may be peace-lea, or land of peace; perhaps because of the harmony of the people, or because the place was exempt from war. This explanation of the origin of the word, however, is merely conjectural.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

"The description of the SYBLY arms, in Burke's General Armory, is 'per pale azure and gules a griffin passant between three crescents argent'. In heraldry, the griffin, which is an imaginary animal, half eagle and half lion, denotes strength and swiftness. The close agreement of the armorial bearings of the families of SIBLEY and of SYBLY seems to show that one of the names is a variation of the other,--the latter probably being a corruption of the former. But it is certain that SIBLEY is of considerable antiquity, as it is found in the Rotuli Hundredorum of the reign of Edward I. (1272-1307), in the counties of Huntington, Kent, Oxford, and Suffolk, where it is spelt SYBELI, SIBELI, SIBELY, SIBILI, SIBILIE, SIBLI; and where the name SILEBY does not seem to occur. The Public Records published by the Record Commission spell it SIBILLE, in the reign of Richard II. (1377-1399); and SIBYLE in that of Henry V. (1413-1422); and in that of Elizabeth (1558-1603), it is SYBLEY, SIBLEY, and SIBLY; and once (with an alias) SYBERY. A very similar name of about the same antiquity is FILIUS SIBILLAE, or FITZ-SYBL, which may have been the original of the name in some cases; in other cases, it may have been derived from the parish of Hingham Sibyl, or Sible, or Sibleys, in Essex.

"From felt's Annals of Salem, i. 172, it seems that the first of the Sibleys in this country came to Salem in the fleet of 1629. It is said that they were from the north part of England or South part of Scotland, or that they came from Northamptonshire. In Willis's Cathedrals, ii. 172, it is stated that 'John Sibeley collated 1459,' succeeded Roger Merham as Prebendary of Lincoln. In Rymer's Foedera, xxi, 348, is recorded 'Pro Johanne Sibley, Rex, vicesimo sexto die maii (1631 or 1632) concessit Johanni Sibley et alia Officium Clerici et Clericorum omnium et singulorum brevium et processuum in Curia Camere Stellate, durante veta. P(rivato) S(igillo);' meaning Clerk of the Court of the Starre Chamber for life. In Dugdale's Warwickshire, Knightlow Hundred, Marton, i. 327, under the patronage of 'Rob. Fysher miles and Bar.,' is found 'Thom. Sybley Cler. in Art. Magr. svii. Oct 1623 (v.p.m. Ric. Seale ult. Incumb.): In the same volume, Birdingsbury, p. 325 is '(Tho. Sibley Cler. ii Julii 1633).' In Besse's Sufferings of the Quakers, i. 638-644, Thomas Sibley, a blacksmith, is 'sent to gaol' and fined--though he was afterward released and the fine remitted--' for being at an unlawful Meeting or Conventicle, in the parish of Crewkerne,' om Somersetshire, on the fourth of June 1684. In the same folume, page 345, William Sibley is named as a prisoner in 1685, in Leicester,--the town where Higgenson was settled before he came to Massachusetts, in 1629. Possibly some of these Sibleys were related to the early settlers in New England."

It is evident from this information that the Sibley family has been in existence for a long time. Another source connects the family all the way back to the Norman Conquest in 1066 in a similar analysis. The following data shows the development of the Sibley family during a period of more than 350 years in America.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Descendants of John Sibley

of

Salem, Massachusetts

The records of the Towns in Massachusetts contain voluminous information on the early settlers of the area. Additionally, historical and genealogical interest has always been high in that part of the country. Numerous books have been published concerning the genealogy of various families. Several mention the family of John Sibley who came to the New World in Winthrop's Fleet (sometimes called Higginson's Fleet because Reverend Francis Higginson was a leader of the group) in 1629.

There were two JOHN Sibleys noted in the earliest records of the New England Colonies. One JOHN Sibley, with wife, Sarah, was admitted to the church at Charlestown, Mass., 21 Dec 1634. He took the Freeman's Oath 3 Sept 1634 and was one of the proprietors. He died 30 Nov 1649 and his widow m (2) Francis Chickering of Dedham, Mass.

Another JOHN Sibley is mentioned as a hired hand, possibly and indentured servant, of Sir Richard Saltonstall. And another JOHN Sibley, reported to be from St. Albans in England and arriving in 1630, took the Freeman's Oath in 1634, was a selectman in 1636, lived at Manchester, Mass., in 1637, went to the General Court in Boston and m. (2) Rachel, daughter of John Pickworth and died in 1661. Yet another source credits JOHN Sibley with taking the Freeman's Oath 6 May 1635, being a proprietor, a constable and, in 1636, a juryman. And a JOHN Sibley m. Rachel Leach, daughter of Lawrence and Elizabeth Leach. She m. (2) Thomas Goldtwait, who d. in 1683. Lawrence Leach came to Salem, Mass., in 1629. He died in 1662 at age 82. He had a son, Robert Leach, who d. in 1674. There is another Robert Leach in the record, but his specific connection is not known.

It has not been possible to determine whether all these John Sibleys were the same man or all different men. I (James S. Sibley) believe there were two men. JOHN of Charlestown and his wife, Sarah, and JOHN of Salem and his wife, Rachel Leach. The following data assume JOHN and Rachel (Leach) Sibley of Salem, Mass., to be the first of this family in America."



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

DIRECT LINE OF DECENT FROM:

JOHN SIBLEY	b. 1597, d. 1661
JOSEPH SIBLEY	b. 1655, d. 1718
JOHN SIBLEY	b. 1687, d. 1782
TIMOTHY SIBLEY	b. 1727, d. 1818
TIMOTHY SIBLEY, JR	b. 1754, d. 1829
TIMOTHY WILLARD SIBLEY	b. 1779, d. 1820
SARAH ELIZABETH SIBLEY	b. 1814, d. 1870

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

DIRECT DECENDANTS OF JOHN SIBLEY  
TO  
SARAH ELIZABETH SIBLEY  
\*

JOHN SIBLEY  
b. about 1597 England  
d. 1661 Manchester, Mass.  
m. Rachel Leach

She was dau. of Lawrence and Elizabeth Leach.

JOHN Sibley (1) arrived in America in 1629. He came with Reverend Francis Higgenson, among the group who came in John Winthrop's Fleet, a commerical venture to settle in North America. He first came to Salem, Mass., but later moved to Manchester where he owned land. Records indicate that there were two brothers, JOHN (1) and RICHARD (1) Sibley, who came to Salem in 1629. Both men were married and both united with the church at Charlestown. JOHN (1) may have been married twice, but it has not been verified. JOHN (1) Sibley took the Freeman's Oath 6 May 1635. He was a selectman from the Town of Salem, and he went to the General Court at Boston. He had come from Dorsetshire, England, where he had made a legal contract in 1617. This indicates that he was born about 1597 to have been of legal age in 1617. He had a brother, WILLIAM, who made a contract at the same time concerning their father's land. The father's name was also WILLIAM Sibley.

SARAH  
bp. 18 Sep 1642  
d.  
MARY  
bp. 8 Sep 1644  
d. 28 Dec 1683  
RACHEL  
b. 3 May 1646  
d.  
JOHN  
b. 4 Mar 1648  
d. 1710  
HANNAH  
bp. 22 Jun 1651  
d.  
WILLIAM  
b. 8 Jul 1653  
d. 28 Apr 1691  
The JOSEPH  
b. 1655

MARY (2) Sibley m. Jonathan Walcott 25 Jan 1665. He was b. about 1639 in England, d. 6 Dec 1699 Salem, Mass. He m. (1) Deliverance Putman 5 Jul 1656, m. (3) Mary Putman 23 Apr 1685.

d. 1718  
SAMUEL  
b. 12 Feb 1657  
d.  
ABIGAIL  
bp. 3 Jul 1659

JOHN Walcott, b. 7 Dec 1666  
HANNA Walcott, b. 6 Oct 1667  
JONATHAN Walcott, b. 1 July 1670  
JOSEPH Walcott, b. 25 Jul 1673 d. 1674  
MARY Walcott, b. 5 May 1675 m. Isaac Farrar at Woburn, Mass., in 1696  
Samuel Walcott, b. 12 Oct 1678, d. 1728, m. Katherine Schurer

RACHEL (2) Sibley m. A. Bishop  
JOHN (2) Sibley m. Rachel Pickworth they lived at Beverly and Manchester, Mass. He was a Captain of Militia and Selectman from Manchester as well as a Representative to the General Court.

MARY Sibley b. 21 Mar 1677

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

ELIZABETH Sibley b. 4 Mar 1679  
JOHN Sibley b. 7 Sep 1680  
HANNAH Sibley (3) b. 18 Feb 1682

HANNAH (2) Sibley m. Stephen Small 25 Feb 1676.  
MARY Small, b. 21 Mar 1678, m. Samuel Cook  
ELIZABETH Small, b. 4 Mar 1679, m. Jeremiah Neale  
JOHN Small, b. 7 Jul 1680  
HANNAH Small, b. 18 Dec 1681, m. Benjamin Endicott 16 Mar  
1710. He was from Topsfield, Mass.  
RACHEL Small, bp 1689, m. Joseph Jacobs  
SAMUEL Small, b. in Jul 1691  
SARAH Small, b. in May 1695

WILLIAM (2) Sibley m. Ruth (Canterbury) Small 1 Nov 1676.  
She was dau. of William Canterbury and widow of William  
Small, brother of Stephen Small who m. HANNAH (2)  
Sibley. WILLIAM (2) was a yeoman and butcher.  
RUTH (3) Sibley b. Aug 1677 m. Thomas Needham 8 Aug 1706.  
JOHN (3) Sibley  
JOSEPH (3) Sibley  
NATHANIEL (3) Sibley b. about 1686 d. about 1733  
RACHEL (3) Sibley b. about 1688 m. Joseph Flint 16 Nov 1710.  
\* JOSEPH (2) Sibley (see next page) m. Susanna Follett 4 Feb 1683  
SAMUEL (2) Sibley m. Mary Woodrow (After several children in the  
town of Salem had severe pains due to tortures of  
demons and could not answer when asked, "Who is  
torturing you?", despite the entreaties of local and  
other clergy, the people became agitated.  
One of Reverend Parris' neighbors, Goody Mary Sibley  
(Mary Woodrow Sibley), who had knowledge of demonology  
which had been handed down in her family for genera-  
tions, remembered a procedure which would empower an  
afflicted child to name the wizard or witch who was  
doing the torturing. Goody Sibley performed the rite  
without the knowledge of Reverend Parris. 'Make a cake  
of rye meal mixed with the children's water and put it  
in the hot ashes on the hearth. When it is baked, give  
it to the dog. If he eats, the children will name the  
torturer.' After all was done Goody Sibley came near  
being tried as a witch but was finally let off with a  
severe chastisement after she had confessed the error  
of her ways. The children did name their "torturer",  
but that is another story.)  
SAMUEL (3) Sibley b. 7 Jan 1687  
MARY (3) Sibley bp. 4 May 1690, d. 1773, m. Freegrace  
Marble. He was b. 15 Jun 1682, d. 30 Sep 1775. Theirs  
was the first marriage performed in the town of Sutton,  
Mass.  
BENJAMIN (3) Sibley b. 4 May 1690  
WILLIAM (3) Sibley bp. 4 May 1690  
REBECCA (3) Sibley bp. 25 Oct 1691  
LYDIA (3) Sibley b. 1694

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

ELIZABETH (3) Sibley

\* JOSEPH (2) Sibley  
b. 1655 Salem, Mass  
d. 1718 Sutton, Mass  
m. Susanna Follett 4 Feb 1683  
b. 1 Jun 1662

She was dau. of Robert and Persis (Black)  
Follett.

JOSEPH (2) Sibley was one of the original  
settlers of Sutton, Mass. All his children  
were born there. He was a fisherman, and on  
his return from a fishing trip to Cape Sable  
he was impressed on board a British Frigate,  
put to hard service for seven weeks and then  
sent home.

Joseph (3) Sibley m. Elizabeth Boutelle  
\* John (3) Sibley m. Zeria Gould (see next  
asterisk) 22 May 1718  
Jonathan B. (3) Sibley m. Mary Cutler  
(int.) 20 Feb 1729. He died before the  
birth of their daughter, before 27 Feb 1730.  
MARTHA (4) Sibley b. 10 Jul 1731 Sutton, Mass.  
HANNAH (3) Sibley m. Ebenezer Daggett 10 Aug 1722

SAMUEL (3) Sibley m. Martha Dike 6 Aug 1722  
WILLIAM B. (3) Sibley m. Sarah Dike 4 Jul 1726  
BENJAMIN (3) Sibley m. Priscilla Rich

\* JOHN (3) SIBLEY  
b. 18 Sep 1687 Salem, Mass  
d. 1782  
m. Zeria Gould 22 May 1718  
b. 20 Apr 1694

STEPHEN (4) Sibley had a son ELIAS (5)

BETHIAH (4) Sibley m. Samuel Trask  
3 Nov 1743. He was b. 1720 d. 1790

\* TIMOTHY (4) Sibley m. three times.  
(see next page)

JOSEPH  
b. 9 Nov 1684  
d. 1754  
JOHN  
b. 18 Sep 1687  
d. 1782  
JONATHAN B.  
b. 1 May 1690  
d. 1731  
HANNAH  
b. 16 May 1695  
d. 8 Feb 1731  
SAMUEL  
b. 16 May 1697  
d. 1730  
WILLIAM B.  
b. 7 Sep 1700  
d. 18 Oct 1763  
BENJAMIN  
b. 19 Sep 1703  
d. 2 Nov 1780  
JOHN  
b. 13 Nov 1714  
d. 4 Mar 1790  
EBENRZER  
b. 28 Feb 1717  
d.  
STEPHEN  
b. 1 Oct 1720  
d.  
BETHIAH  
b. 2 Oct 1724  
d.  
TIMOTHY  
b. 2 Nov 1727  
d. 6 Dec 1818  
MARY  
b. 19 Feb 1730  
d.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

TIMOTHY SIBLEY



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

\* TIMOTHY (4) Sibley  
 b. 2 Nov 1727 Sutton, Mass.  
 d. 6 Dec 1818 Sutton, Mass.  
 m. (1) Mary Wood 27 May 1752 Uxbridge, Mass.  
     b. 3 Mar 1735  
     d. 25 Sep 1753  
 She was dau. of Exekiel and Mary Wood  
  
 m. (2) Anna Waite 16 Oct 1753 Sutton, Mass.  
     b. 14 Oct 1733 Ipswich, Mass.  
     d. 12 Mar 1794 Sutton, Mass.  
 She was dau. of Benjamin Waite of Ipswich,  
 Mass.  
  
 m. (3) Hannah Amidon 14 Feb 1797  
     d. 5 Jun 1822 Sutton, Mass.  
 She was a widow from Mendon, Mass.

TIMOTHY (4) Sibley was commissioned a  
 Lieutenant Colonel in Colonel Ebenezer  
 Learned's Regiment 5 Oct 1774. DERRICK (6)  
 Sibley of Cincinnati described his grandfather  
 as follows:

"He was what we used to designate in New  
 England as 'a gentleman of the old school'. He  
 wore a cocked hat which was placed on the top  
 of a huge wig having large curls behind, and  
 three rows of smaller ones behind each ear, all  
 neatly crimped and powdered. The other parts  
 of his costume were, a ruffled shirt bosom and  
 wrists, the coat in its cut like those worn by  
 the better sort of Quakers. Vest cut with  
 flaps in a circular form below the pockets.  
 Small clothes terminating at the knees and  
 fastened with highly polished silver buckles.  
 The shoes were also fastened with large silver  
 buckles ornamented with raised figures and  
 always bright and shining. When he rode out  
 he wore white or russet topped boots and silver  
 plated spurs. When sitting at home the wig was  
 laid aside carefully in its case, and a very  
 fine knit bright scarlet worsted cap with a  
 silk top knot, worn in its stead. In person he  
 was somewhat above the ordinary size of men,  
 though not corpulent, in height nearly six feet.

"If we were to divide mankind into four classes in point of  
 mental ability, no one who knew him well would hesitate to place  
 him in the first class. He possessed fine colloquial powers, was  
 social and communicative, his words well chosen, combining fluency  
 with terseness and he had a singular ability of saying much in few  
 words. In appearance he was grave, bordering on austerity. I  
 never heard him laugh, and very seldom have I seen him smile. Yet

TIMOTHY, JR.  
 b. 19 Jun 1754  
 d. 26 Aug 1829  
 JOSHUA  
 b. 16 Nov 1755  
 d. 29 Sep 1774  
 JOHN (Twin)  
 b. 19 May 1757  
 d. 8 Apr 1837  
 STEPHEN (Twin)  
 b. 19 May 1757  
 d. 20 Jun 1759  
 STEPHEN  
 b. 10 Nov 1759  
 d. 21 Apr 1829  
 EBENEZER  
 b. 7 Apr 1761  
 d. 10 Sep 1839  
 ANNA  
 b. 15 Dec 1762  
 d. 2 Apr 1784  
 ASA  
 b. 29 Mar 1764  
 d. 25 Feb 1829  
 JONATHAN  
 b. 8 May 1766  
 d. 20 Feb 1823  
 BENJAMIN  
 b. 29 Apr 1768  
 d. 2 Oct 1829  
 SOLOMON  
 b. 17 Nov 1769  
 d.  
 MARY (Polly)  
 b. 4 Dec 1771  
 d. 8 Jun 1844  
 ARTEMAS  
 b. 9 Jul 1773  
 d. 10 Aug 1777  
 NAHUM  
 b. 11 Sep 1775  
 d. 16 Sep 1796  
 SALLIE  
 b. 6 Jun 1779  
 d. 21 Mar 1833



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

he was considered very pleasant company for all classes, and young people especially were pleased with his society. When two of his neighbors had any disagreement it was customary to refer the matter to him and his opinion was 'the end of the law'. Important public interests were frequently committed to his management and disposal." (Origen Sibley letter)

TIMOTHY (4) Sibley was also a member of the Committee of Safety, also called the Committee of Correspondence, of Sutton, Mass.

\* TIMOTHY (5) Sibley m. Mary Barstow 5 Nov 1778  
(See next asterisk)

JOHN (5) Sibley b. 19, May 1757 Sutton, Mass. d. 8 Apr 1837  
Natchitoches, La. m. (1) Elizabeth Hopkins in 1780  
b. d. 25 Oct 1790 Fayetteville, N.C.  
She was dau. of Reverend Samuel Hopkins of Great Barrington, Mass.  
m. (2) Mary (White) Winslow 10 Nov 1791 Fayetteville, N.C.  
She d. 25 Oct 1811. She was the widow of Edward Winslow.  
m. (3) Eudalie Malique 10 Feb 1813 Natchitoches, La.  
b. 1787 d. 1877

GEORGE Champlin (6) Sibley b. 1 Apr 1782 d. 31Jan1863  
SAMUEL HOPKIN (6) Sibley b. 16 Apr 1784 d. 17Nov 1823  
ROBERT HENRY (6) Sibley b. 20 Aug 1792 d. 14 Apr 1853  
ANN ELIZABETH (6) Sibley b. 16 Aug 1797 d. 12Feb 1874  
HENRIETTA (6) Sibley b. 23 Jul 1815 d. Oct 1846  
HELENA (6) Sibley b. 27 Aug 1817 d. 28 Jan 1850  
HORATIO (6) Sibley b. 29 Jan 1821 d. Jul 1851  
RUFUS (6) Sibley b. 22 May 1822 d. 1880

JOHN (5) Sibley studied medicine with Dr. John Wilson of Hopkinton, Mass. During the Revolutionary War he served as a Surgeon's Mate in Colonel Ephraim Wheelock's Regiment at Fort Ticonderoga. He also served in the same capacity in Colonel Danforth Keyes' Regiment. He practiced medicine in Great Barrington, Mass., where he married first. About 1785 he moved to Fayetteville, N.C., where he established the Fayetteville Gazette. In September 1802, after a disastrous fire, he moved to Louisiana. Letters of introduction led him to association with prominent men in New Orleans and he became well known in social circles. Governor W.C.C. Claiborne was impressed with Sibley's abilities and interest in Louisiana and the various Indian tribes and recommended him to President Jefferson as the man best suited to travel into the colony to collect information concerning the languages of the Indians. He arrived at Natchitoches in the spring of 1803 and was shortly appointed Indian Agent for Orleans Territory. He then began extensive visits to the several tribes in the area which is now the State of Louisiana, sending frequent, comprehensive reports to Governor Claiborne and President Jefferson. In addition to general information concerning the Indians he began his compilation of the Caddo vocabulary which is preserved in the Jefferson papers. His reports were well written and gave an excellent indication of the conditions of the

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Indians in the Territory. He was removed from office in 1814 and he entered into politics to become a parish judge. He was subsequently elected to the State Legislature where he served several years. In 1819 he joined Colonel James Long's expedition to Nacodoches in Texas. He became a member of the supreme council which governed the captured post. Upon his return to Natchitoches he lived on his plantation at Grand Ecore where he spent his time in planting cotton and in manufacturing salt at Postlewaite's salt works nearby. He was prosperous in both endeavors and was a highly respected gentleman in the State.

STEPHEN (5) Sibley b. 10 Nov 1759 Sutton, Mass. d. 21 Apr 1829 Grafton, Ohio m. Jemima Hopkins 23 Feb 1785 b. 1756 d. 1 Jan 1836.

She was dau. of Timothy Hopkins. Her year of birth is also given as 1760.

Stephen (5) Sibley was a goldsmith at Norwich, Conn. He moved to Great Barrington, Mass., on to Stockbridge and finally to Ohio.

JOHN (6) Sibley b. 15 Mar 1792 d. 26 Jul 1871  
GILES (6) Sibley b. 6 Mar 1793 d. 12 Sep 1843  
GEORGE (6) Sibley b. 20 Aug 1794 d. 15 Oct 1848  
MARK HOPKINS (6) Sibley b. 6 Nov 1796 d. 8 Sep 1852  
NANCIE (6) Sibley b. 16 Oct 1798 d. 5 Sep 1826  
MARY (6) Sibley b. 28 Jul 1801 d.

EBENEZER (5) Sibley b. 7 Apr 1761 Sutton, Mass. d. 10 Sep 1839 Westford, Vt. m. Lydia Beach b. 15 May 1766 d. 6 Mar 1834. She was dau. of Silas and Elizabeth (Vail) Beach.

JOHN (6) Sibley b. 3 Jul 1791 d. 24 Mar 1872  
LOVICA W. (6) Sibley b. 25 Jun 1792 d. 16 Feb 1823  
EDWIN (6) Sibley b. 13 Jun 1794 d. 6 Mar 1826  
SILAS B. (6) Sibley b. d.  
WARREN (6) Sibley b. 4 Feb 1800 d.  
TIMOTHY (6) Sibley 4 Feb 1803 d. 24 Sep 1880  
NANCY (6) Sibley b. 29 Jun 1807 d. 1 Jan 1843  
HULDA A. (6) Sibley b. d.

ANNA (5) Sibley b. 15 Dec 1762 d. 2 Apr 1784

ASA (5) Sibley b. 29 Mar 1764 Sutton, Mass. d. 25 Feb 1829 Rochester, N.Y. m. Irene Carpenter 19 Jan 1787 Woodstock, Conn. b. 30 Jul 1766 d. Oct 1846. She was dau. of Jesse and Abigail (Ainsworth) Carpenter. ASA Sibley was goldsmith at Woodstock, Conn. He later moved to Walpole, Vt.

DERRICK (6) Sibley b. 22 May 1788 d. 1875  
SOPHIA (6) Sibley b. 5 Oct 1790 d. 5 Feb 1841  
LUCY (6) Sibley b. 21 Jul 1792 d. 18 Jul 1795  
LEVI WAITE (6) Sibley b. 4 Mar 1801 d. 13 Aug 1844  
MARY ANNE (6) Sibley b. 16 Dec 1804 d.  
GEORGE A. (6) Sibley b. 6 Apr 1809 d. 183

JONATHAN (5) Sibley b. 8 May 1766 Sutton, Mass. d. 20 Feb 1823, m. Mary Davis 25 June 1788, b. 24 Feb 1768 Oxford,

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Mass. d. 23 Jun 1840 Eddington, Maine. She was dau. of Samuel Davis.

JONATHAN (5) Sibley settled at Sutton, Mass., but moved to Eddington, Maine, in 1800 with his father-in-law who was a selectman, good financier, a prominent supporter of the Universalist Society, of strong physique and a noted wrestler.

DAVIS (6) Sibley b. 29 Nov 1788 d. 21 Nov 1828

MARY (6) Sibley b. 13 Apr 1792 d. 9 Nov 1844

JONATHAN W. (6) Sibley b. 13 Aug 1800 d. 26 Sep 1829

LEONARD (6) Sibley b. d.

BENJAMIN (5) Sibley b. 29 Apr 1768 d. 2 Oct 1829 Mendon, N.Y. m. Zilpha Davis 23 May 1791 Charlton, Mass. b. 13 Apr 1771 Oxford, Mass. d. 16 May 1824 North Adams, Mass. She was dau. of Damuel Davis. BENJAMIN (5) Sibley settled in North Adams, Mass. He moved to western, New York State after death of his wife.

SAMUEL (6) Sibley b. 30 Nov 1792 d. 4 Mar 1858

PATTY (6) Sibley b. 6 Feb 1799 d. 12 Jul 1805

ZILPHA (Nancy?) (6) Sibley b. 7 Feb 1806 d. 14 Feb 1806

HIRAM (6) Sibley b. 7 Feb 1807 d. 13 Jul 1888 North Adams, Mass.

m. Elizabeth Maria Tinker 24 Jan 1833 b. 11 Aug 1815

HIRAM (6) Sibley received a meager education in the local school. He was a shoemaker at first and migrated to Lima, N.Y., when quite young. He worked in a cotton factory, in a wool carding shop with Millard Fillmore and at the age of twenty-one he established a machine shop in Mendon, N.Y. The business thrived and he was able to move to Rochester with the proceeds of the sale of the shop in 1838. In Rochester he became involved in banking and real estate. He was well liked in the area and he was elected sheriff of Monroe County in 1843.

At about this time he met Royal Earl House, inventor of House Printing Telegraph, and his interest in this media of communication began. He assisted in obtaining federal appropriations for experiments under way by Samuel F.B. Morse. In 1851 he organized the New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company using patents purchased from his friend House. He also organized several smaller companies.

In 1854 Sibley, with Ezra Cornell, formed the Western Union Telegraph Company in order to consolidate the several small companies then in operation. The company was chartered in 1856 with Sibley as president. He held that position for thirteen years. During this period the number of telegraph offices increased from 132 to 4,000 and the value of the company increased from about \$22,000 to

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

more than \$48,000,000.

In 1861 Sibley began construction of a trans-continental line with his own finances. He had been unable to convince his colleagues in Western Union of the importance of the project. He had, however, been able to obtain an annual subsidy of \$40,000 from Congress for ten years. The line was a success from the beginning and it subsequently became a part of Western Union. Sibley used the considerable fortune derived from the telegraph to develop various railroads and he invested in the lumber and salt industries.

Under his guidance Western Union invested about \$3,000,000 in the construction of a telegraph line across Alaska and Siberia in order to connect America with Europe. Extensive planning had been done including obtaining concessions from the Czar when Cyrus Field successfully laid a cable under the Atlantic. The cross continent project was abandoned in 1866.

Sibley's investments also included extensive land holdings. He owned a 40,000 acre farm in Illinois and a great deal of farm land in other areas. It is said that in 1888 he was the largest owner of improved land in the entire country. He worked prodigiously at his farming enterprises, supporting experiments of all sorts in agriculture. He operated a 3,500 acre seed farm at Cayuga, N.Y.

He was one of the incorporators of Cornell University and he was a constant benefactor of that institution. He built the Sibley College of Mechanic Arts with a contribution of \$150,000. At the University of Rochester his generosity resulted in Sibley Hall, used as a library. He was an amiable, generous, capable man in all fields. His interests were numerous and each received his full attention.

SOLOMON (5) Sibley b. 17 Nov 1769 d. m. Sally  
Stockwell 13 Jan 1792 b. 21 Jan 1774 d. She was  
dau. of Noah Stockwell. SOLOMON (5) Sibley lived at Ward  
and Auburn, Mass.

STEPHEN (6) Sibley b. 12 Dec 1792 d. young.

NANCY (6) Sibley b. 19 Jan 1797

HEISTER (6) Sibley b. 19 Jun 1799 d.

LEWIS (6) Sibley b. 8 Jul 1801 d.

SALLY (6) Sibley b. 31 Aug 1804

STEPHEN (6) Sibley b. 26 Jul 1805

SOLOMON (6) Sibley b. 14 Jun 1808 d. 21 Jul 1838

MARY (6) Sibley b. 25 Aug 1810 d.

JOHN (6) Sibley b. 20 Feb 1818 d. 17 Aug 1824

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

MARY (Polly) (5) Sibley b. 4 Dec 1771 d. 8 Jun 1844  
m. Abner Cummings 14 Sep 1794 at Oxford, Mass. He was  
b. 9 Oct 1770, d. 1800. She m. (2) Reuben Waters 26 May  
1804. He was son of Amos and Abigail Waters.  
ARTEMAS (5) Sibley b. 9 Jul 1773 d. 10 Aug 1777  
NAHUM (5) Sibley b. 11 Sep 1775 d. 16 Sep 1796  
SALLIE (5) Sibley b. 6 Jun 1779 d. 21 Mar 1833 m. Amasa  
Cummings.

- \* TIMOTHY (5) Sibley, Jr. b. 19 Jun 1754 Sutton, Mass.  
d. 26 Aug 1829 Sutton, Mass  
m. Mary Barstow 5 Nov 1778  
b. 1 Jun 1756 Brimfield, Mass  
d. 1833  
She was dau. of Jeremiah Barstow.
- All children of this marriage were b.  
Sutton, Mass., except ORIGEN (6) who  
was b. Thompson, Conn.
- TIMOTHY WILLARD  
b. 11 Sep 1779  
d. 11 Mar 1820  
MARY  
b. 5 Dec 1780  
d. 1 Oct 1821  
ANNE  
b. 15 Jan 1782  
d.  
CYRUS  
b. 6 Jan 1784  
d. 1 Aug 1812  
ARTEMUS  
b. 21 Apr 1786  
d. 12 Aug 1812  
SALOME  
b. 13 Apr 1788  
d.  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
b. 17 Jan 1796  
d.  
ORIGEN  
b. 25 Jun 1798  
d. 1 Oct 1864
- \* TIMOTHY WILLARD (6) Sibley  
b. 11 Sep 1779 d. 11 Mar 1820 Bangor, Me.  
(See next asterisk)  
MARY (6) Sibley b. 5 Dec 1780 d. 1 Oct 1821 m. Nehemiah  
Scarborough.  
ANNE (6) Sibley b. 15 Jan 1782 d. m. Stephen Wilmarth.  
Nancy Sibley Wilmarth, m. Daniel Angell  
John Wilmarth Angell, m. Elizabeth Stillwell  
Clara M. Angell, b. Providence, R.I.
- & CYRUS (6) Sibley b. 6 Jan 1784 d. 1 Aug 1867  
(See next &)  
ARTEMUS (6) Sibley b. 21 Apr 1786 Sutton, Mass., d. 12 Aug  
1812. ARTEMUS (6) Sibley "received a commission in the  
last (1812) War as Ensign and joined the army under  
General Hull. He was killed three days before the  
surrender of Detroit by a random cannon shot from the  
British battery erected opposite. Himself and two others  
were killed by the same shot, and theirs were I believe

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

the only lives lost on that occasion. The ball nearly severed his body and he survived but a few minutes. We received the particulars from Uncle Asa Sibley who resided at Rochester, New York, and with whom Artemus had lived nearly from his childhood. He was spoken of as a promising young officer, and his death was much lamented. The surrender of Detroit took place August 15th. 1812. Consequently his death happened on the 12th. He was the next child after Cyrus, having been born April 6, 1786." (ORIGEN (6) Sibley letter)

SALOME (6) Sibley b.13 Apr 1788 d. 26 May 1883 age 95 & buried in family lot in Magnolia Cemetery. (See book Montrose)

m. 16 Sep 1814 Elijah Jewett of Thompson, Conn."Mr. Jewett was a native of Thompson, Conn., (Windham Co.) All his family were very respectable and independent farmers. Mr. J. inherited a good farm and was a sound intelligent man of much reading and study. He labored under a pulmonary complaint and came to Georgia in 1818 partly for his health and partly on business and after a few years renived gus family there." (Origen Sibley letter)  
His children were born at Thompson, Conn. Mr. J. was b. 1782, d. 1 Sept 1830. His children were born at Thompson, Conn. After his death, SALOME came to live with her brothers in Baldwin County. (See Montrose)

Marie Louise Jewett, b. 20 Dec 1815, d. 25 Nov 1816

John Franklin Jewett, b. 12 Feb 1818

Origen S. Jewett, b. 5 Apr 1820

Mary Anne Elizabeth Jewett, b. 28 Oct 1823 m. Armistead  
Mason Elgin

Clara Elgin, b. Ala, m. John Hill Fitzpatrick

Isabella Elgin, b. Mobile, AL., m. Cornelius Ellis  
Thames

Susan Rebecca Jewett, b. 14 Sep 1826 d. 23 Jul 1827

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SIBLEY (6) b. 19 Jul 1790 d. 1793

SUSAN (6) Sibley b. 16 Jul 1790 d. m. Nehemiah

Scarborough in 1822

Nehemiah Barstow Scarborough, b. Sep 1823 Providence,  
R.I.

Cyrus Sibley Scarborough, b. 30 Jul 1830 Providence,  
R.I.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SIBLEY (6) b. 17 Jan 1796 d. m. and  
lived in Woodville, Wilkinson Co., Miss.

Origen (7) went to live with his uncle, ORIGEN (6) Sibley  
in Alabama, and drowned.

Susan (7)

Tabitha (7)

ORIGEN SIBLEY (6) b. 25 Jun 1798 d. 1 Oct 1864 Sibley's Mill,  
ALA. m. Elizabeth Barlow 14 Nov 1833 Blakeley, ALA. She was  
b. 8 May 1815 d. 2 Jul 1875 (She was dau. of Aaron and Sarah  
(Gilchrist)

JOSEPHINE

b. 2 Jul 1835

d. 3 Mar 1873



ORIGEN SIBLEY



Mildred Mooney Boler acquired these two pictures.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

ELIZABETH BARLOW SIBLEY



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

ORIGEN (6) SIBLEY was a plantation owner, business man and scholar. He conducted a large lumber and sawmill business in Baldwin Co., Ala. The 1860 Federal Census indicates his real property to be valued at \$75,000 and his personal property at \$125,000.

JOSEPHINE (7) SIBLEY m. (1)  
George W. Barnaby 18 Jan 1854  
He d. 1859.

Bessie Barnaby, b. 14 Jan  
1857, m. Martin Kent  
Northam 8 Sep 1887

George Adam Barnaby, b.14  
Jan 1857, d. 1897

She m. (2) William Motley Stevens  
8 Mar 1864. He d. 1870.  
Lloyd Motley Stevens, b.13  
Jan 1869, m. Reberta  
Callender at Victoria, Tex. b.  
He d. 13 Jun 1955 Victoria, Tex.

SALOME ELIZABETH  
B. 19 Aug 1837  
d. 1 Nov 1893

ORIGEN, JR.  
b. 6 Feb 1840  
d.

LAURA  
b. 11 Apr 1842  
d.

FRANKLIN EDWARD  
b. 27 Nov 1844  
d. 15 Apr 1918

HELEN  
b. 15 Dec 1846  
d. 1940

CHARLES SWEET  
b. 25 Jan 1849  
d.

EUGENE  
b. 16 Sep 1851  
d. 4 Mar 1911

GUY CLARENCE  
b. 18 Mar 1854  
d.

JULIA EVE  
b. 16 Jan 1856  
d.

SALOME ELIZABETH (7) SIBLEY m. Nathaniel Ragan King 4 Mar  
1857. He was b. 18 Jun 1831, d. 19 Nov 1863.

Marietta King, b. 8 Sep 1858, m. William M. King 19  
Jun 1890

Harvey King, b. 16 Jul 1891

Sibley Paul King, b. 5 Jun 1860

Idyl King, b. 23 Feb 1862, m. William Edwin Gorsby  
19 Feb 1884

Paul Clinton Gorsby

Nathalie Ragan King, b. 6 May 1863, m. Charles H.  
Warriner 9 Feb 1886

Olga Warriner, b. 14 Jan 1889

Natalie Warriner, b. 17 Jan 1890

Mable Claire Warriner, b. 6 Mar 1891, m. George H.  
Smith

Laura Salome Warriner, b. 5 Mar 1893

ORIGEN (7) SIBLEY m. Harriett Brainard 1 Feb 1866. She was  
b. 1 Feb 1845. He changed his name to ORIGEN CYRUS when  
a cousin, ORIGEN (7), son of BENJAMION FRANKLIN (6) Sibley  
came to live with the family. The cousin drowned 16 Dec  
1848.

JAMES BRAINARD (8), b. 15 May 1869, m. Adele Estelle  
Ward 15 Aug 1895

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

ORLEANS EMMA (8) b. 30 Jun 1872, d. 17 Oct 1872  
ORIGEN (8), b. 6 Jun 1873

LAURA (7) Sibley m. William G. McNeill 31 Jan 1839.  
Mary Elizabeth McNeill, b. 8 Mar 1865, m. (1) Ludolph  
Chester in Dec 1883. She m. (2) Ledyard Scott in  
Jun 1890.

Alan Chester  
William Stoddard McNeill, b. 6 Dec 1866 d. 14 Apr 1868  
Laurence Harvey McNeill, b. 10 Aug 1869  
Fanny Ethel McNeill, b. 21 May 1871  
Daniel McNeill, b. 22 Sep 1872  
Lila Douglas McNeill, b. 10 Apr 1877

FRANKLIN EDWARD (7) Sibley b. 27 Nov 1844 Sibley's Mills,  
Ala. d. 15 Apr 1918 Houston, Tex. m. (1) Fannie Rogers  
Victoria, Tex b. 30 Apr 1852, d. 5 Feb 1871.  
m. (2) Ida Kean Sterne 18 Oct 1877 Victoria, Tex. b. 1  
Mar 1860 Victoria, Tex. d. 15 May 1924 Houston, Tex.

FRANKLIN E. (7) Sibley came to Victoria, Texas, soon  
after the Civil War. He and his brothers, EUGENE (7),  
established the Sibley Steam Mills at Victoria. He also  
operated a large grocery store. He served as an alderman  
and was one of the foremost of the worthy business men in  
Victoria. All his children were b. Victoria. HELEN M.(8)  
ROWLAND (8), and EUGENE W. (8) died there.

ETHEL (8) b. 5 Feb 1871 d. 5 Feb 1871

HELEN MAY (8) b. 9 Aug 1879, d. 10 Nov 1880

FRANK ELLIOTT (8) b. 1 Mar 1881, d. 14 Nov 1943

He never married. He spent his entire business  
career in New York City. For many years he was  
Financial Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in the  
United States. He died at Houston, Texas.

IDA VALERIE (8) b. 9 Feb 1883, d. 11 Jan 1980, m.

Louis Hart Bailey 4 Aug 1910 New York City.

Elizabeth Rowland Bailey, b. 28 Dec 1912 Houston,  
Tex. m. Jesse W. Martin 23 Jun 1951

Louis Garland Bailey, b. 5 Mar 1918 Houston, Tex.

JULIAN DENNIS (8) b. 30 Dec 1885, d. 29 Feb 1964 m.

Mrs. Anita Williams Galey 6 Apr 1918 at New York  
City. He d. Bronsville, N.Y. they had no children.

ROWLAND (8) Sibley b. 14 Jul 1890, d. 7 May 1901

EUGENE WILSON (8) Sibley b. 1 Jun 1894, d. 1 Jan 1896

HELEN (7) Sibley m. (1) Audubon Gullette 10 Oct 1866, m. (2)  
Frank Aubrey Lumsden in Nov 1876 (/), m. (3) Captain  
Thomas Dennis.

Laura Helen Gullette, b. 30 Oct 1867, m. Samuel Barlow  
in 1887.

Nellie Barlow, b. 1888

Elizabeth Gullette, b. 24 Mar 1869, m. Albert Putnam

Eugenia Gullette, b. 9 Mar 1874, m. Samuel Cad Wallader

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Dodge

Dorothy Dodge, m. J. Barton Greer

CHARLES SWEET (7) Sibley b. 25 Jan 1849 d.

m. Edna G. D'Olive 25 Jan 1890

EDNA (8) Sibley b. Dec 1890 Mobile, AL

EUGENE (7) Sibley b. 16 Sep 1851 Sibley's Mills, AL

d. 4 Mar 1911 San Antonio, TX m. Margaretta Sterne

11 Jan 1888 Victoria, TX b. 18 Nov 1861 Victoria, TX

EUGENE (7) Sibley came to Victoria, Texas, soon after the Civil War with his brothers, ORIGEN (7) and FRANKLIN EDWARD (7). About 1872 ORIGEN (7) returned to Nibuke where the family had extensive business holdings. EUGENE (7) bought his share of the Sibley Steam Mills at Victoria. He later entered the banking business with J.M. Brownson and Company and conducted an extensive banking business. The business was so firmly established that it withstood the panic of 1884 when larger firms were failing. EUGENE (7) Sibley was prominent in the community, and he was an alderman. All his children were born at Victoria. His first child died there. The second died at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

LAURENCE STERNE (8) Sibley b. 2 Nov 1888, d. 7 May 1901

ELIZABETH (8) Sibley b. 11 Feb 1890 d. 13 Aug 1896

EDWARD AUSTIN (8) Sibley b. 16 Jun 1899, d. 4 Feb 1960

m. Ethel Eden 22 Jun 1922 Bryan, TX. He was a lawyer and also vice president and trust officer at the Frost National Bank in San Antonio, where he died. She died 6 Apr 1970.

MARGARET ELIZABETH (9) Sibley, b. 3 Jun 1925

Houston, TX, m. R.B. Lewis 12 Aug 1950 San Antonio, TX. She graduated from Sweetbriar and did work at the University of Texas in Biochemistry. She holds degrees from both schools.

Edward Sibley Lewis, b. 27 Jun 1951 Austin, TX, m. Janet Laudick 15 Aug 1973. She was b. 24 Aug 1951

Jason Eric Lewis, b. 2 Mar 1978

Sara Renee Lewis, b. 17 Mar 1980

Carolyn Anne Lewis, b. 25 Oct 1954, m. James Lloyd Mohler 5 Jun 1976, divorced. He was b. 12 June 1953.

GUY CLARENCE (7) Sibley b. 18 Mar 1854, d.

m. Susie Shipman.

CLARENCE (8) Sibley b. 1883

JULIA EVE (7) Sibley b. 16 Jan 1856 d.

m. Edward L. Barnes 12 Dec 1876. He was b. 23 Jan 1850

Anderson Barnes, b. 28 Oct 1877

Origen Sibley Barnes, b. 2 Sep 1879, d. 1884

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Edward L. Barnes, Jr.  
Pendleton Barnes  
Sager Barnes

\* TIMOTHY WILLARD (6) Sibley b. 11 Sep 1779, d. 11 Mar 1820 Bangor Maine. m. Elizabeth Comins 27 Oct 1811 Eddington, Maine. b. d. 2 Mar 1820  
WILLIAM C. (7) Sibley b. 20 Jun 1812 d. Mobile, AL In Ada Sarah Holyoke Rowell McCoy's home on North Ann Street; therefore, we believe that he and his sister, Sarah Elizabeth Sibley (our great-grandmother) came to Baldwin County and lived with their Uncle Origen.  
SARAH ELIZABETH (7) Sibley b. 2 Jan 1814 Bangor, Maine d. 9 Oct 1870 m. William Brewer Holyoke 22 Jun 1853 Baldwin Co., AL  
Ada Sarah Holyoke, b. 9 Apr 1854 d.25 Mar 1922 m. (1)William H. Rowell b.25 Apr 1854 d.1 Dec 1880. She m. (2) Milton Alexander McCoy of Middleton, TX  
Edward A. Rowell b. 5 Jan 1875 d. 27 Mar 1875  
Alice Louise Rowell, b. 2 Jun 1876 d. 3 Jan 1963  
Annetta Louise Rowell, b. 17 Jan 1881 d. 3 May 1930  
William Holyoke McCoy, b. 26 Apr 1883 d. 9 Mar 1965  
Sarah Jane McCoy, b. 14 Feb 1885 d. 6 Oct 1971  
Fayette Melissa McCoy, b. 10 Feb 1887 d. 29 Nov 1963

AMANDA M. (7) SIBLEY b. 25 Jun 1817 d. m. a Dow.

ALMIRA S. (7) SIBLEY b. d. m. a Knapp

NANCY W. (7) SIBLEY b. d. m. Francis S. Putney 20 Sep 1843. She was b Eddington, Me.  
Luther C. Putney, b. 26 Jul 1859 d. 10 Feb 1930.

At present, we believe that SARAH ELIZABETH SIBLEY came South with her older brother, WILLIAM CYRUS SIBLEY, and they lived with their Uncle Origen. She was a spinster and came South for health reasons. She meet WILLIAM BREWER HOLYOKE and married him in Baldwin County. We have a copy of their marriage license if any of you D.A.R. or S.A.R buffs wish a copy. We also found in Book "H" Page 108 of Baldwin County Deed Book the following:

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

SARAH ELIZABETH SIBLEY HOLYOKE

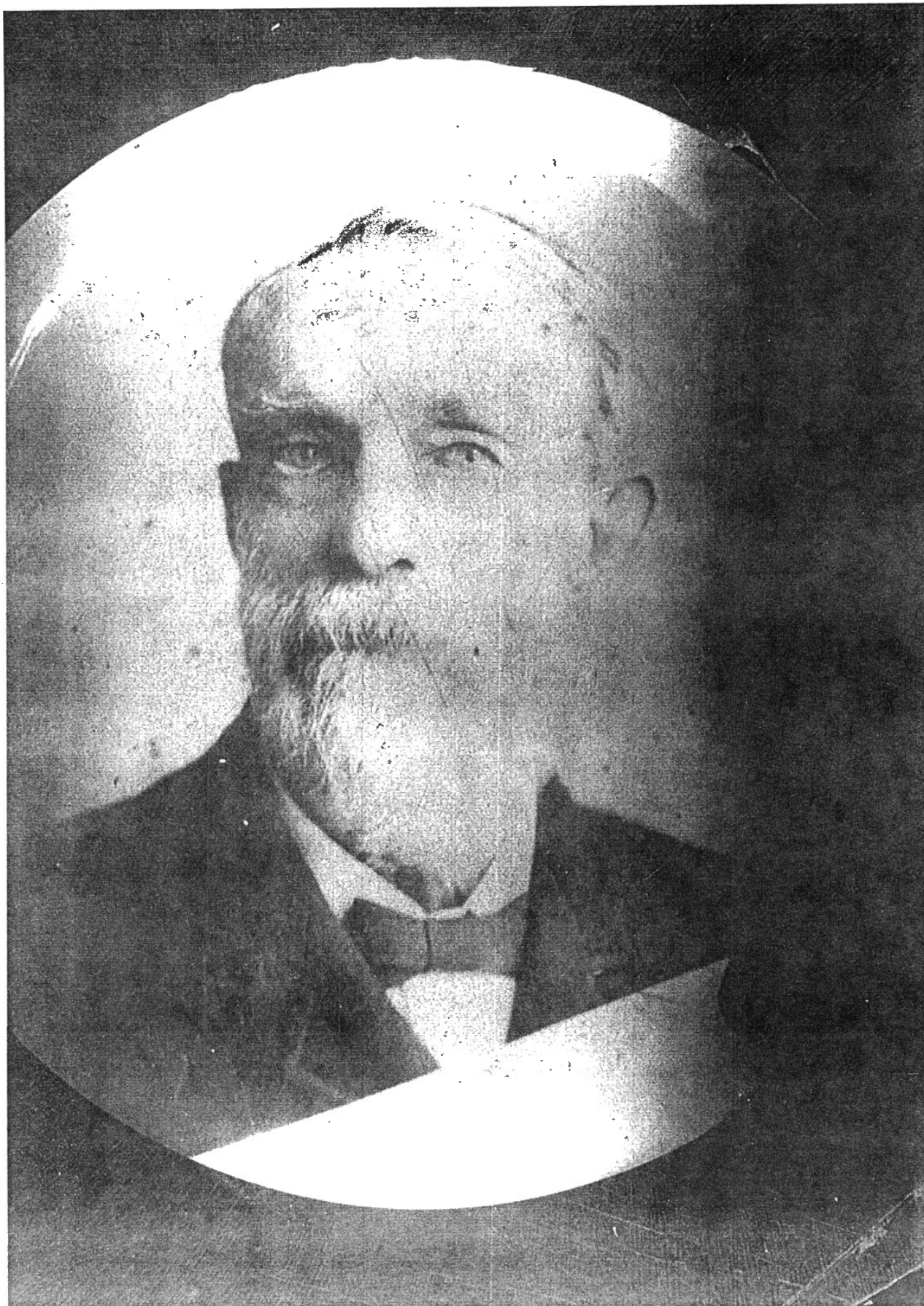
ADA SARAH HOLYOKE





Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

WILLIAM BREWER HOLYOKE





**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

" Know all men by these presents that I, Origen Sibley, of Baldwin County, State of Alabama, for and in consideration of the love and affection which I bear my niece Sarah E. Holyoke, formerly Sarah E. Sibley, and for the further consideration of ten dollars to me in hand paid, do hereby give and grant and convey to her the said Sarah, and to the heirs of her body, a certain negro woman named Elvira aged about twenty years, with her future increase, the title to whom I hereby guarantee against all persons whomsoever.

Given under my hand this first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty four (1854).

Signed :    Origen Sibley

Received for record June 21st, 1860

Recorded June 21st, 1860

C. W. Wilkins  
Judge of Probate

As you see, she was a slave owner. We do not know what happened to Elvira. We assume she was freed after the Civil War and perhaps she chose to stay in Baldwin County when the Holyoke family moved to Mobile. We know that SARAH ELIZABETH HOLYOKE was about forty when ADA SARAH HOLYOKE was born in Baldwin County. About this same time, Sarah Elizabeth Sibley Holyoke was given a Land Grant from President James Buchanan, which reads as follows:

CERTIFICATE  
No. 17138

701

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

WHEREAS Sarah E. Holyoke of Baldwin County Alabama has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of THE REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at St. Stephens whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Sarah E. Holyoke according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the North West quarter of the South East quarter of Section Six in Township four South of Range three East in the District of Lands subject to sale at St. Stephens Alabama containing forty acres and a quarter hundredths of an acre according to the official plat of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract have been purchased by the said Sarah E. Holyoke.

NOW KNOW YE, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED,

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said Sarah E. Holyoke and to her heirs, the said tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature thereunto belonging, unto the said Sarah E. Holyoke and to her heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I, James Buchanan PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty first.

(L.S.)

BY THE PRESIDENT: James Buchanan

By Y. I. Albright Secretary.

J. N. Granger Recorder of the General  
Land Office.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

Washington, D. C. Oct 7 1925

I hereby certify that this photograph is a true copy of the patent record which is in my custody in this office.

(General Land Office)

M. P. LeRoy Recorder.

STATE OF ALABAMA,)  
BALDWIN COUNTY. )

I, W. D. Stapleton, Judge of Probate for said County hereby certify that the following privilege tax has been paid on the within instrument as required by acts 1923. Viz. \_\_\_\_Cts 50.

W. D. Stapleton, Judge of Probate,  
by J. L. Kessler, Clerk

Filed for record Oct. 13th 1925 at 4 P. M.

---00000000000000000000000000000000---

The above was found years ago by Daisie Snow and assistants but it was lost till Clyde Brown, Sr. & Jr. went to Bay Manette with us and found it in the 1925 records book. Clyde, Jr. will do some research on this matter on his next trip to Washington in July, but we hope to do further research in Baldwin County when time permits. Well, you are saying, "What happened to this land?" The following instrument tells you:

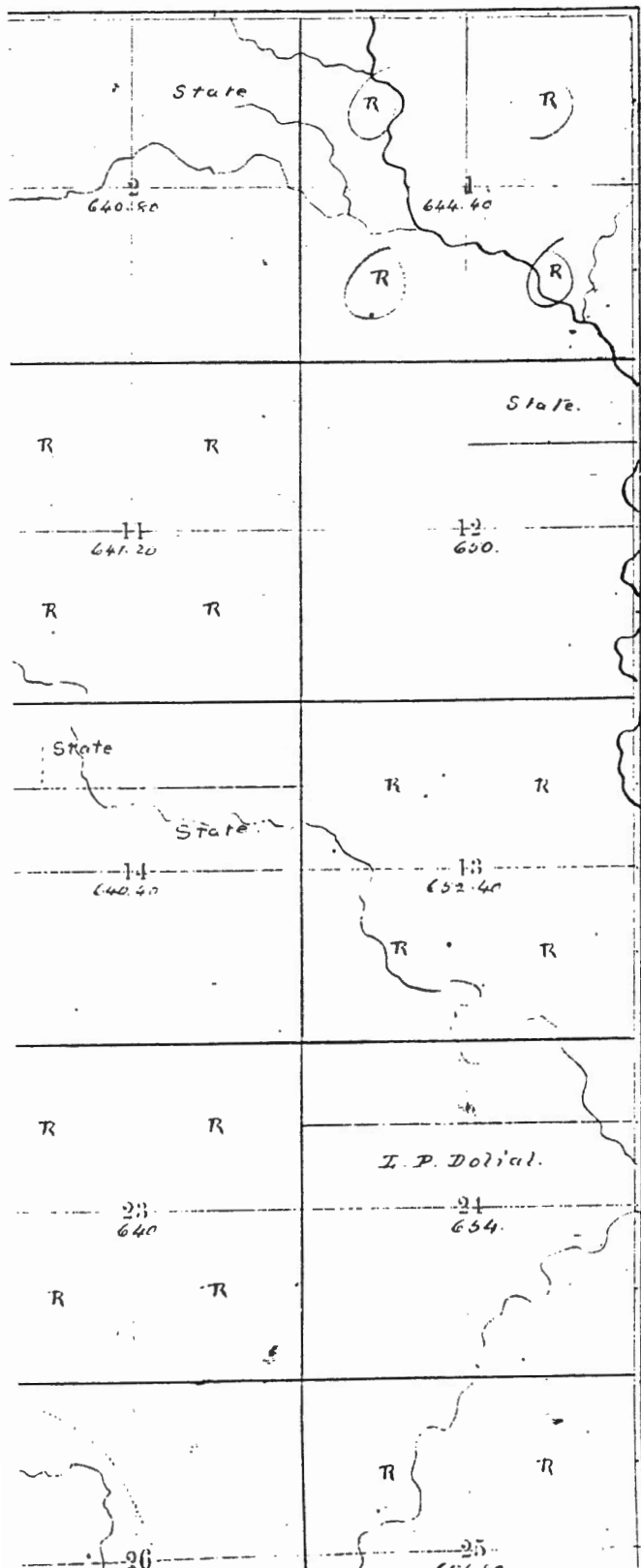
---00000000000000000000000000000000---

# Township *How, North;* Range

<p>O. Sibley</p> <p>642.40</p> <p>S.E. Holyoke</p>	<p>R</p> <p>Smith</p> <p>640.80</p> <p>M. V. Smith</p> <p>R</p>	<p>N.V. Edmund</p> <p>R</p> <p>641</p>	<p>R</p> <p>R</p> <p>641.40</p> <p>R</p> <p>R</p>
<p>R</p> <p>W. R.</p> <p>Holyoke</p> <p>Hannawell</p> <p>645</p> <p>R</p> <p>R</p> <p>Hannawell</p> <p>Hannawell</p>	<p>Holyoke</p> <p>Hannawell</p> <p>646.40</p> <p>Hannawell</p>	<p>R</p> <p>R</p> <p>643</p> <p>R</p> <p>R</p>	<p>10</p> <p>642.60</p> <p>J.A. Carley</p>
<p>Morris H.D. Hannawell</p> <p>Stapleton Smith</p> <p>H.D. Smith</p> <p>18</p> <p>647.20</p> <p>Smith</p>	<p>R</p> <p>O. Sibley</p> <p>17</p> <p>640.60</p> <p>R</p> <p>Sibley</p> <p>R</p>	<p>16</p> <p>646</p>	<p>R</p> <p>R</p> <p>15</p> <p>641.20</p> <p>R</p> <p>R</p>
<p>R</p> <p>R</p> <p>14</p> <p>649.20</p> <p>R</p> <p>R</p>	<p>Sibley</p> <p>21</p> <p>641.50</p> <p>Sibley</p>	<p>R</p> <p>R</p> <p>21</p> <p>648</p> <p>R</p> <p>R</p>	<p>23</p> <p>640.40</p> <p>H. Hall</p>
<p>R.M. Stapleton</p> <p>R.M.</p> <p>31</p> <p>651.40</p> <p>Stapleton</p>	<p>R</p> <p>Sibley</p> <p>R</p> <p>24</p> <p>641.50</p>	<p>28</p> <p>649.40</p>	<p>R</p> <p>R</p> <p>27</p> <p>640.40</p>

Free, East:

33



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

THE STATE OF ALABAMA.:  
BALDWIN COUNTY. :

Before me Charles Hall a Notary Public for said County in said State personally appeared Norman L. Durant, who being by me first duly sworn according to law does depose and say that he is eighty-two years of age and has lived in Baldwin County, Alabama, all his life, that he was personally acquainted with Sarah E. Holyoke, whose name is shown in the chain of title to the Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter of Section six, Township four South, Range three East in Baldwin County, Alabama, which said land was patented by the United States Government on November 22, 1855 to the said Sarah E. Holyoke, and that he was personally acquainted with William B. Holyoke who was her husband and knows of his own knowledge that said Sarah E. Holyoke only had one child or heir and her name was Ada Holyoke and that said Ada Holyoke was the only child and heir of the said Sarah E. Holyoke and William B. Holyoke.

Affiant further says that he lived on and occupied as his home the said Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter of Section 6, Township four south, Range three east in said County continuously for eleven years and during all that period of time he lived on and occupied the above said described land as his homestead he paid the State and County taxes on said land for each and every year during his occupancy thereof and claimed said land as his property until March 28th. 1892, that being the date he deeded said land to one Scott Meade.

Norman L. Durant

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of December, 1925.  
(SEAL) Charles Hall

Filed for record December 9th. 1925, at 8 A. M.  
Recorded December 28th., 1925.

W. D. Stapleton, Judge of Probate

-----00000000000000000000000000000000-----

The following deed was found in Deed Book R. Pages 540-541 in Bay Minnette, Baldwin County, Alabama Court House.

This indenture, made the 28th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two between N. L. Durant and L. D. Durant, his wife, of Baldwin County, Alabama of the first part, and Scott Mead, of Selma, Alabama of the second part.

Witnesseth that the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Four Hundred 00/100 Dollars lawful money of the United States of America to them in hand paid, by the said party of the second part at or before the ensealing and delivery of these results, the receipt whereof is purely acknowledged and the said party of the second part his heirs, executors, and administrators, forever released and discharged

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

from the same by these Presents, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released, enfcoffed, conveyed, and confirmed and by these Presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, enfcoff, convey and confirm this said party or the second part his heirs and assigns forever. All that certain land situate lying and being in the County of Baldwin, State of Alabama and described as follows to wit; The North East quarter of Section Seven (7) and the North West quarter of Section eight (8), Also the North West quarter of the South East quarter and the North West quarter of the South West quarter of Section Six (6). All in the Township four (4) South Range three (3) East.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, rights, members privileges and appurtenances unto the above mentioned and described premises, being or otherwise appertaining; To Have and To Hold the above granted and described premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns to this sale and proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, and the said N. L. Durant and L. D. Durant for themselves and their heirs the above described and hereby granted and released premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the hereditaments, and appurtenances unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns against the said parties of the first part and their heirs, and assigns all and every person and persons, whomsoever, lawfully claiming or to claim the same, shall and will warrant and by these Presents forever Defend.

Page 541

In Witness Whereof, The parties to these Presents have hereunto set their hands and seals this day and year first above written.	
Sealed and delivered	Norman L. Durant (SEAL)
in Presence of	
Edwin P. Durant	Laura D. Durant (SEAL)
Evie D. Batre	

The State of Alabama) I, George H. Hoyle, Notary Public and  
Baldwin County ) exofficio, Justice of the Peace hereby,  
certify that N. L. Durant and L. D. Durant whose names are signed  
to the foregoing conveyance, and who are Known to me, acknowledged  
before me on this day, that being informed of the contents of the  
conveyance they executed the same Voluntarily on the day the same  
above date.

Given under my hand this 28th day of March A.D. 1892  
George H. Hoyle  
Notary Public

Filed and recorded June 11th 1892.  
W. H. Gasque, Judge

-----00000000000000000000000000000000-----

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

(As you see the above Deed includes not only SARAH ELIZABETH SIBLEY HOLYOKE'S property but also WILLIAM B. HOLYOKE'S property. Now to find out how Durant acquired William B.'s property????? The following was found in Bay Minette.)

DEED & WILL BOOK I (i) PAGE 75  
MORTGAGE

State of Alabama )  
                          )  
Mobile County     )

Know all men by these presents that in consideration of three hundred and thirty dollars to me in hand paid by G. Y. Overall of Mobile, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do hereby bargain, sell and convey to said Overall his heirs and assigns the following described real estate situated in the County of Baldwin in said State, and situated about eight miles east of Blakely on which I had a saw mill the same being three hundred and sixty acres & numbered as follows: The South West quarter, and the North East quarter of section seven Township three, range three east, also South West quarter of North East quarter of Section Six Township three, range three East, in said County.

To have and to hold the same unto the said G. Y. Overall his heirs and assigns, forever.

The condition of the above obligation is such that I have this day rented from said Overall his house and lot on Conti Street in Mobile for the sum of three hundred and thirty dollars for one year commencing from the 18th October 1867, payable monthly twenty seven 50/100 Dollars in advance at the beginning of each month during said time. If said rent is paid as agreed on, then these presents to be void, else to be and remain in full force and effect. Witness my hand and seal this 31st of October A.D. 1867.

W. B. Holyoke (SEAL)

State of Alabama )  
Mobile County     )

I S. H. Pairs a Notary Public in and for said County & State hereby certify that W. B. Holyoke, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is Known to me, acknowledged before me that being informed of the contents of the conveyance, he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand and seal Notorial this 31st of October 1867.

S. H. Pairs  
Notary Public  
Mobile Co.

Received for Record March 7th 1868  
Recorded

This was written across and over this Mortgage:

This Mortgage is fully paid and Satisfied Nov 2nd 1868.  
G. Y. Overall

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

The above entrance made by orders of said Overall this 21st May 1869.

O. P. (?) Hall  
Judge of Probate

-----00000000000000000000000000000000-----

(Is this the clue we need to tell us when they moved to Mobile? We know she died in 1870 in Mobile when Ada Sarah Holyoke was 16 years of age. To get back to Sarah Elizabeth Sibley Holyoke's property (the Presidential Land Grant). We know that Norman L. Durant got the property by crook or hook and sold it in 1892 to a Scott Mead, who in turn sold it in 1895 to a George H. Hoyle, the deed follows:

This was found in Deed Book U pages 573-574

This Indenture, made the 30th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety five between SCOTT MEAD and EMMA MEAD his wife of the first part and GEORGE H. HOYLE of the second part.

Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first party for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty & 00/100 Dollars lawful money of the United States of America to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part at or before the ensealing and delivery of these Presents, the receipt, whereof is hereby acknowledged and the said party of the second part his heirs executors and administrators, forever released and discharged from the same by these presents, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released enfcoffed conveyed and confirmed, and by these Presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, enfcoff, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever, All That certain land in Baldwin County Alabama Known and described as follows, to wit: The North West quarter of the South West quarter (NW 1/4 of SE 1/4) and the North West quarter of South West quarter (NW 1/4 of SW 1/4) of Section Six (6) Township Four (4) South of Range Three (3) East containing Eighty (80) acres more or less. Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, rights, members, privileges and appurtenances unto the above mentioned and described premises belonging or any wise appurtenant To have and to hold the above granted and described premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns to the sale and proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever, and the said SCOTT MEAD and EMMA MEAD for themselves and their heirs the above described and hereby granted and released premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the hereditaments and appurtenances unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns against the said parties of the first part, and their heirs, and against

Page 574

all and every person and persons, whomsoever lawfull, claiming or



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

to claim the same shall and will Warrant and by these Presents forever defend.  
In Witness whereof the parties of the first part to these Presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Scott Mead            (SEAL  
Emma Mead            (SEAL)

The State of Alabama )  
Baldwin County        )

Joseph Hall a Notary Public, hereby  
certify that Scott Mead and Emma Mead his Wife whose names are  
signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who are Known to me,  
acknowledged before me, on this day that being informed of the  
contents of the conveyance they executed the same voluntarily on  
the day the same bears date,  
Given under my hand this 30th day of November A.D. 1895.

Joseph Hall  
Notary Public  
Baldwin County Ala.

Filed for Record Dec 2nd 1895  
Recorded Dec. 5th 1895

Chas Hall  
Judge of Probate

-----00000000000000000000000000000000-----  
( As you see, there is much work to be done to unravel this and these tracts of land. Our next trip to Bay Minette is to find out who Hoyle sold the property to and to find other deeds for W.B. Holyoke. We know the present owner of Sarah Elizabeth Holyoke and William B. Holyoke is owned by a GEORGE LIBERMAN who made a subdivision of all of the land in that area. We are also trying to find the cemetery where Sarah Elizabeth Sibley Holyoke is buried in Baldwin County. If it is THE SIBLEY CEMETERY it is located in Township 4 South, Range 2 East, Northeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter of Section 15, but getting to it is the problem. This area is posted and under dense growth. We are considering going in by boat because Aunt Sallie's (Sarah Jane McCoy Dowling) recollections were that they carried the body by barge from Mobile to some area on one of those rivers and up a cliff to the cemetery. We are wondering if Origen Sibley is buried there also. The following will add some more light to the subject. The following deeds are very interesting.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

DEED  
FOUND IN BOOK R, PAGE 537-538

Be it Known That Wm. B. Holyoke and Ada S. McCoy of the County of Mobile State of Alabama for and in consideration of the sum of Six Hundred Dollars, lawful money of the United States to them in hand paid by Loyd Stevens as before the sealing and delivery of these Presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have remised released, and forever quitclaimed, and by these Presents, do remise, release, and forever quit claim unto the said Loyd Stevens in his full and actual possession now being and to his heirs and assigns forever, All and singular the estate right, title, interest, use, trust, property, claim and demand whatsoever at law as well as in equity, in possession as well as in expectancy of, in, to or out of all and singular. That certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Baldwin State of Alabama, and described as the NORTH WEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTH EAST QUARTER OF SECTION SIX, TOWNSHIP FOUR, SOUTH, RANGE THREE EAST, being the same land entitled by Sarah Holyoke who died leaving her husband and one child and him at law who are the grantors in this deed to have and to hold to said released premises unto the said Loyd Stevens heirs and assigns to his own proper use, benefit and behoof; so That neither the said William B. Holyoke or Ada McCoy, or their heirs or assigns, nor any other person or persons in trust for them or in their name or names, or in the name, right or stead of any of them, shall or will, can or may, by any ways or means whatsoever, hereafter have claim, challenge, or demand any right, title, interest or estate of, in to or out of the said premises, above described and hereby released. But that by these Presents the said William B. Holyoke and Ada McCoy, their heirs and assigns, each and every one of them, from all estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand whatsoever of, in to, or out of the said premises or any part thereof, are is and shall be by these Presents, forever excluded and debanded.

In Witness Whereof The said William B. Holyoke and Ada McCoy have hereunto set their hands and seals this                      day of                      in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and ninety two.

Signed Sealed and                      )	Wm. B. Holyoke	(SEAL)
delivered in Presence of                      )	Mrs. Ada S. McCoy	(SEAL)
E. S. Barnes                      )		

The State of Alabama                      ) I, E. S. Barnes, a Notary Public for  
Mobile Aounty                      ) said County hereby Certify that  
   William B. Holyoke and Ada S. McCoy  
whose names are signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who are  
Known to me adknowleged, before me, on this day that being  
informed of the contents of the conveyance they executed the same  
voluntarily on the day of the same above date.  
Given under my hand and seal this 26th day of March A.D. 1892.  
   E. S. Barnes N.P.M.C.

Filed June 11th 1892  
   W. H. Gasque, Judge.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Page 538 Book R

This Indenture Made the 17th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninty one between Loyd Stevens of the first part, and N. L. Durand of the second part.

Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty (350) Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to have in hand and, by the said party of the second part at or before the ensealing and delivery of these Presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and the said party of the second part his heirs, executors, and administrators, forever released and discharged from the same by these presents has granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, enfcoffed, conveyed and confirmed and by these Presence do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, enfcoff, convey, and confirm the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, all, that certain land situated, lying and being, in the County of Baldwin, State of Alabama, and more particularly described as follows, to wit: NORTH EAST QUARTER OF SECTION SEVEN and the NORTH WEST QUARTER OF SECTION EIGHT. Also the NORTH WEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTH EAST QUARTER AND THE NORTH WEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTH WEST QUARTER OF SECTION SIX ALL IN TOWNSHIP FOUR SOUTH, RANGE THREE EAST. Together with all and singular the tenements hereditaments, rights, members, privileges, and appurtenances unto the above mentioned and described premises belonging or any premises with appertainig. To Have and to Hold the above named and described.

PAGE 539

Appurtenances, with the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns, to the sale and proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Loyd Stevens for himself and his heirs the above described and hereby granted and released premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the hereditaments, and appurtenances unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns against the said party of the first part, and his heirs and against all and every person and persons whomsoever, lawfully claiming or to claim the same shall and will Warrant and by these Presents forever Defend.

In Witness Whereof The party to these Presents have hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written, sealed and delivered.

LLoyd Stevens (SEAL)

Presence of

The State of Texas ) I, J. E. Carpenter a Nortary hereby certify  
Victoria County ) that Lloyd Stevens whose name is signed to  
the foregoing conveyance, and who is Known to me acknowledged  
before me, on this day, that being informed of the contents of the  
conveyance he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same  
bears date.

Given under my hand this 20th day of November A.D. 1891

J. E. Carpenter  
Notary Public  
Victoria Co., Texas

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Filed & recorded June 11th 1892

W. H. Gasque, Judge

-----00000000000000000000000000000000-----

DEED

Be it Known, That Oregin Sibley & William B. Holyoke & Harriet B. Sibley wife of O. Sibley of the County of Mobile State of Alabama for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred and Twenty Dollars lawful money of the United States to them in hand paid by N. L. Durant at or before the sealing and delivery of these Presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have remised, released and forever quit claimed, and by these Presents, do remise, release, forever quit claim unto the said N. L. Durant in his full and actual possession now being, and to his heirs and assigns and assigns forever. All and singular the estate, right, title, interest, use, trust, property, claim and demand whatsoever at law as well as in equity, in possession as well as in expectancy of in, to, or out of all and singular that certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Baldwin, State of Alabama, and described as the NORTH WEST QUARTER SECTION EIGHT AND THE NORTH EAST QUARTER OF SECTION SEVEN IN TOWNSHIP FOUR SOUTH RANGE THREE EAST being the same land which was heretofore conveyed by said W. B. Holyoke to said Oregin Sibley and by said O Sibley to said N. L. Durant by two several deeds which are now lost or mislaid deed this deed is made to take the place of such lost deeds, and to make it (?) of the said N. L. Durant perfect and complete to the lands above described. To Have and to Hold the said released premises unto the said N. L. Durant heirs and assigns to his own proper use, benefit and behoof forever so that neither the said Oregin Sibley & wife, William B. Holyoke their heirs and assigns nor any other person or persons in trust for them in their name or names, or in the name right or stead of any of the , shall or will can or may, by any ways or means whatsoever hereafter heirs, claim, challenge, or demand any right, title, interest or estate of, into or one of the said premises above described and hereby released. But That by these Presents the said Oregin Sibley & wife and William B. Holyoke their heirs and assigns, each and every one of them from All estate, right, title, interest, property, claim, and demand whatsoever of, in, to, or out of, the said premises by these part thereof, are is, and shall be by these presents forever excluded and debarred. In Witness Whereof, The said Oregin Sibley & wife, and William B. Holyoke have hereunto set their Hand and seals this                      day of                      year of our Lord One Thousand Eight and ninety two.

Signed Sealed and                      )	Oregin Sibley	(SEAL)
delivered in Presents of                      )	Harriet B. Sibley	(SEAL)
Anderson S. Barnes    asto H).B.S.	Wm. B. Holyoke	(SEAL)
Ed S. Barnes, Jr                      )		

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

The State of Alabama                    ) I, E. S. Barnes, a Notary Public in  
Mobile County                         ) & for said County, hereby certify  
  that Orgin Sibley, harriet B.  
Sibley and William B. Holyoke whose names are signed to this  
forgoing conveyance and who are Known to me, acknowledged before  
me on this day, that being informed of the contents of ths  
conveyance, they executed the same voluntarily on the day the same  
bears date.  
Given under my hand and seal the 26th day of March A.D. 1892  
  E. S. Barnes N.P.M.C.

-----000000000000000000000000-----

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

BANGOR, MAINE  
Birth Place  
of  
SARAH ELIZABETH SIBLEY

The first white man visiting the site of Bangor was Samuel de Champlain, the famous explorer who ascended the Penobscot River in 1604. The first white settler was Jacob Busell who came in 1769. Bangor was called Kadesquit by the Indians and Sunbury by its very early white settlers. The name Bangor was derived from the favorite hymn of that name in 1791 and was the selection of Rev. Seth Noble. The town was incorporated in 1791 and became a city in 1834. The first Directory of Bangor was published in 1834 by James Burton, Jr and contained 72 pages of 7 1/2 in. by 4 1/2 in. in size, and 1,200 names of the inhabitants. The first saw mill was built by the Harthorns. In 1769 there was a saw mill erected by a man named Mansel at the mouth of the Penjejawock Stream. In 1791 the first vessel was built and launched on the Penobscot. The lumber industry expanded from the small beginnings of the early saw mills and Bangor eventually became the greatest lumber port in the world. Its greatest activity was about 1870. The arrival of the railroads had much to do with its decline. The first Penobscot River bridge at Bangor was built in 1832. Bangor has always been active in all of the wars of the nation, and there are various monuments commemorating the sacrifice and valor of all branches of military service. The first monument to Civil War veterans to be erected was in Bangor. Bangor has had one Vice President of the United States as its resident whose name was Hannibal Hamlin. The homestead is located and still standing on Fifth Street.(1960's). 1959 saw the year long celebration of the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of Bangor as a city. The Bangor Historical Society Museum, the Hannibal Hamlin Home, the Champlain Marker, Original Shield of the Battleship Maine, the Pierce Memorial, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paul Bunyan and the Hannibal Hamlin Statues attest to the wonderful historical background of Bangor.

(Hannibal Hamlin was Lincoln's First Vice-President.

PAUL BUNYAN-In American folklore, Paul Bunyan is a giant lumberjack of superhuman strength. He is based on an oral tradition that apparently originated among French or Irish lumberjacks in 19th-century Canada, but most of the tales about him are literary creations of the 20th century. He first appeared in print in a Detroit newspaper article in 1910 and soon became a popular symbol of American bigness and energy. W. B. Laughead, who adopted Paul as the advertising symbol of a Minnesota lumber company, invented the name Babe for Paul's giant blue ox and the names of other characters in his legendary logging camp.)

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

Vice-President		Term	President
1.	John Adams	1789-97	Washington
2.	Thomas Jefferson	1797-1801	John Adams
3.	Aaron Burr	1801-05	Jefferson
4.	George Clinton	1805-09	Jefferson
	George Clinton*	1809-12	Madison
5.	Elbridge Gerry*	1813-14	Madison
6.	Daniel D. Tompkins	1817-25	Monroe
7.	John C. Calhoun	1825-29	John Quincy Adams
	John C. Calhoun†	1829-32	Jackson
8.	Martin Van Buren	1833-37	Jackson
9.	Richard M. Johnson	1837-41	Van Buren
10.	John Tyler**	1841	William H. Harrison
11.	George M. Dallas	1845-49	Polk
12.	Millard Fillmore**	1849-50	Taylor
13.	William R. D. King*	1853	Pierce
14.	John C. Breckinridge	1857-61	Buchanan
15.	Hannibal Hamlin	1861-65	Lincoln
16.	Andrew Johnson**	1865	Lincoln
17.	Schuyler Colfax	1869-73	Grant
18.	Henry Wilson	1873-75	Grant
19.	William A. Wheeler	1877-81	Hayes
20.	Chester A. Arthur**	1881	Garfield
21.	Thomas A. Hendricks*	1885	Cleveland
22.	Levi P. Morton	1889-93	Benjamin Harrison
23.	Adlai E. Stevenson	1893-97	Cleveland
24.	Garret A. Hobart*	1897-99	McKinley
25.	Theodore Roosevelt**	1901	McKinley
26.	Charles W. Fairbanks	1905-09	Theodore Roosevelt
27.	James S. Sherman	1909-12	Taft
28.	Thomas R. Marshall	1913-21	Wilson
29.	Calvin Collidge**	1921-23	Harding
30.	Charles G. Dawes	1925-29	Coolidge
31.	Charles Curtis	1929-33	Hoover
32.	John N. Garner	1933-41	Franklin D. Roosevelt
33.	Henry A. Wallace	1941-45	Franklin D. Roosevelt
34.	Harry S. Truman**	1945	Franklin D. Roosevelt
35.	Alben W. Barkley	1949-53	Truman
36.	Richard M. Nixon	1953-61	Eisenhower
37.	Lyndon B. Johnson**	1961-63	Kennedy
38.	Hubert H. Humphrey	1965-69	Lyndon B. Johnson
39.	Spiro T. Agnew†	1969-73	Nixon
40.	Gerald R. Ford††	1973-74	Nixon
41.	Nelson A. Rockefeller	1974-77	Ford
42.	Walter F. Mondale	1977-81	Carter
43.	George H. W. Bush	1981-89	Reagan
44.	J. Danforth (Dan) Quayle	1989-93	Bush
45.	Albert Gore, Jr.	1993	Clinton

Continue to next page.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

ADA SARAH HOLYOKE ROWELL MCCOY





Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family

This letter written by Sarah Elizabeth Sibley Holyoke to Ada Sarah sometime in her informative years. We know she was taught in the home by a hired teacher. We, also, learned she was sent up East (or North) to study piano & voice-opera. Neighbors, friends, and family enjoyed her playing and beautiful voice when she would visit her daughter, Nettie Rowell Burns.

My dear daughter,  
You are a little  
wild & full of play. I  
am so sorry to see you in the house  
in the morning, but I am so  
very writing you, to find out this, because  
I am so sorry to see you in the house  
of many years, if I could see you  
back into this part, I thought what  
will I do with you, which name shall  
I give you; oh, how the eyes of a girl  
came to me, I mean to see you, getting  
your name, but I thought I would  
write her then, I thought of  
my own handwriting, oh, how I  
my mind that I like her right.  
She called away from you are you  
brought to know what life is.  
My heart and write your daughter

for you have so often wished that  
you could call to mind some word  
or look of yours & this perhaps may  
comfort the young heart, when you  
sleep the quick sleep of death.

My heart is full of love and though  
for you, would that I could shield  
you from all ills of life, but it cannot  
be, he who made us says that the heart  
should be tried to be purified, it may be  
your lot the left father & motherless if  
so, never murmur; although life  
may not seem to you as bright & beautiful  
as to those that are surrounded with  
home & friends, for he who ordered it  
so that all things well, evil, and true  
for life has its pleasures & pains for  
all, only trials to the well doers  
enlighten & beautify the mind & make  
the heart susceptible of a <sup>the</sup> sublime  
enjoyment that pampered never

know. If I live I will watch  
over you, if not I shall be near  
you, for the spirit has no hands  
clay - my child - never feel sad & desper-  
dence for the future is full of hope  
ty for the future heart, strive to be  
good, have self-control day & night, never  
be tempted by others, have a mind of  
your own, be firm but not stubborn.  
be cautious without flattery, be kind  
to the afflicted. be not easily swayed  
in your opinions, see for yourself.  
but not hastily if it be held true  
for the truth the flowers come  
Bless you my child & may God keep  
you from all ill. I have been  
trials but I do not regret them for  
he who suffered then to be is made  
self. Good night my dear one, your  
father looks ill, I fear he is not long  
for this world & have a presentiment  
shall not long survive him. With  
best love to you & your mother

Anna Soles Mooney wrote this for us some years ago.

august 13 / a page to  
My dear daughter <sup>on this to mother memory</sup>  
<sup>some of her gifts</sup>  
<sup>treasured since childhood</sup>  
You are a little wild girl full of  
play I can hardly keep you in the house  
with me at all; I'm looking over my  
case <sup>writing</sup> I ~~found~~ found this envelope  
wreathed with flowers, I have had for  
many years, It carried me far back  
in to the past, I thought what will I  
do with it? What name shall I put on  
it? A fair blue eyed girl came to me  
Mama I was only <sup>young</sup> for some chips  
So I thought I must write here there  
& then I thought of my own dear mother  
it came in my mind that I ~~would~~  
like her might be called away you  
are you learned to know what hope  
is  
my heart said write your daughter  
for you have so often wished that  
you could call to mind some word  
or look of yours & this ~~may~~ perhaps may  
comfort her young heart when you  
sleep the quick sleep of death  
my heart is full of love and thoughts

for you would that could ~~shield~~ shield  
you from all ills of life, but it cannot  
be; He who made us saw fit that the  
heart should be tried to be purified it may  
be your lot to be left father & mother-  
less if so never murmur although life  
may not seem to you as bright & beauti-  
ful; are to those that are surrounded  
with home and friends for he who ordered  
it so doeth all things well. wait and trust  
for life has its pleasures and ~~pleasure~~ <sup>fair</sup> for all,  
& only trials to the well doer; enlighten and  
beautify the mind, and make the heart  
susceptible of a calm pure enjoyment  
that I am friend never ~~have~~ know.  
If I live I will watch over you if not-  
I shall be near you; for the spirit has no  
bounds, so my child, never feel sad to  
~~despondency~~ despondency for the world is full  
of beauty, for the pure in heart; Strive to be good  
learn self control daily never be tempted by others  
have a mind of your own be firm but not stub-  
born, be courteous without flattery, be kind to the  
afflicted, be not easily swayed in your opinion  
see for yourself, but not hastily, Take the time  
for the fruit, the flowers come first, bless  
you my child, and may God keep you from  
all ill I have had many trials, but I do not regret  
them for he who suffered, then to be is wisdom  
self. Goodnight my dear, I hear your father looks  
ill I fear he is not long for this world. I have a present-  
ment I shall not long survive him with the life I deal  
this for you. Your own mother  
Sarah & Halcyon



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF WILLIAM C. SIBLEY

253        State of Alabama    )    In the name of God, amen. I,  
             Mobile County    ) William C. Sibley, of the County of  
                                     Baldwin in said State Of Alabama, but  
now temporarily residing in the City of Mobile, in said State,  
being of sound mind and disposing memory, but mindful of the  
uncertainly of life, do hereby make, publish and declare this my  
last Will and Testament, by this instrument revoking all other or  
former wills or codicils.

I give

devise and bequeath unto Edward S. Barnes, trustee, the sum of  
four hundred dollars to be held by him upon the following trust  
and for the following purposes to wit: I desire and request my  
said trustee to invest said sum of four hundred dollars to the  
best advantage in some safe investment; he shall pay over annually  
to Mrs Ada S. Rowell, all interest or dividends which he may  
collect on account, or as the proceeds of said sum of four hundred  
dollars and at the death of said Mrs. Ada S. Rowell, my said  
trustee is to pay said principal Sum of four hundred dollars to  
Mrs. Nancy W. Putney, who resides in Webster, State of New  
Hampshire. I give, devise and bequeath to Mrs. Almira S. Knapp of  
the town of Webster, State of New Hampshire, the Sum of one  
thousand dollars (\$1000.00). I give, devise and bequeath unto Mrs.  
Amanda W. Dow, the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1000) said Amanda  
W. Dow resides near Concord, State of New Hampshire.

The remainder of my Estate both

real, personal and mixed, I give, devise and bequeath unto Mrs.  
Nancy W. Putney who resides in Webster, State of New Hampshire,  
and I Hereby Constitute & appoint as the Executor of this my last  
Will & Testament Origen Sibley, Charles S. Sibley and Edward S.  
Barnes and hereby relieve my said Executors from giving bond.

Given under my hand and seal this twenty seventh day of  
December A.D. 1878.

Wm. C. Sibley (LS)

The above instrument in writing was signed in our  
presence by William C. Sibley who declared the same to be his  
last Will and Testament, and we hereby subscribe our names hereto  
as subscribing witnesses to said will at the request of said Wm C.  
Sibley, and in his presence, and in the presence of each other.  
Witness our hands at Mobile, Dec. 27, 1878.

Henry F. Wilson  
Albert Tufts

CODICIL- By this Codicil, I desire to so far change my  
foregoing will as to raise the Amount devised to Edward S. Barnes  
in trust for Ada S. Rowell from four hundred dollars to six  
hundred dollars. I further desire & direct that at the death of  
said Ada S. Rowell Said E. S. Barnes, trustee shall pay over to  
Alice Louise Rowell, daughter of said Ada S. Rowell, three hundred  
dollars out of said six hundred dollars, the other three hundred

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

dollars to be paid over to Mrs. Nancy W. Putney. But should said Alice Louise die before said Ada S. Rowell, then at the death of said Ada S. the whole of said six hundred dollars is to be paid to Mrs. Nancy W. Putney.

Witness my hand this 6th day of Sept 1879.

Wm. C. Sibley

Signed in our presence Sept 6th 1879 & declared by Wm. C. Sibley to be the Codicil to his will dated Dec 27th 1878, at his request & in his presence we attest his signature

Annie Sheridan  
Henry F. Wilson  
Albert Tufts

The State of Alabama     )  
Baldwin County         )     Probate Court of  
                                      Said County.

In the matter of the Probate of the last will and Testament of William C. Sibley, deceased.

(Page 255) Before me William H. Gasque, Judge of said Court, personally appeared Henry F. Wilson and Albert Tufts, who having been, by me, first duly sworn and examined, did and does depose and say on oath, that they are subscribing witnesses to the instrument of writing now shown to them and which purports to be the last Will and Testament of William C. Sibley, deceased, late an inhabitant of this County; that said William C. Sibley, since deceased, signed and executed said instrument on the day the same bears date, and declared the same to be his last Will and Testament, and that affiants set their signatures thereto on the day the same bears date, as subscribing witnesses to the same, in the presence of the Said Testator, and in the presence of Annie Sheridan, the other subscribing witness.

That said Testator was of sound mind and disposing memory, and in the opinion of deponents fully capable of making his will, at the time the same was so made as aforesaid. Affiants further states that said Testator was, on the day of the said date of said will, of the full age of twenty one years and upwards.

Subscribed and sworn to	)	Henry F. Wilson
before me this 10th day	)	Albert Tufts
of December 1879.	)	
W. H. Gasque Judge	)	

The State of Alabama     )  
Baldwin County         )     I, William H. Gasque Judge of  
                                      the Court of Probate, in and  
                                      for said County and State, do  
hereby certify, that the within instruments of writing have this day, in said Court, and before me, as the Judge thereof, been duly proven by the proper testimony, to be the genuine Last Will and Testament, and Codicil thereto of William C. Sibley, deceased, and that said Will, and said Codicil together with said proof thereof, have been recorded in my office, in Book A of Wills-pages 308, 309, 310, 311.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

In witness of all which, I have hereto set my hand and the  
seal of said Court, this 10th day of December 1879.

W. H. Gasque, Judge  
(SEAL)



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

& CYRUS (6) SIBLEY  
b. 6 Jan 1784 Sutton, Mass.  
d. 1 Aug 1867 Baldwin Co., AL  
m. Eliza Ann Humphries 12 Jun  
1827 Blakeley, AL  
b. 9 Sep 1809 Ky.  
d. 4 Oct 1884 New Orleans, La.

CYRUS (6) Sibley taught school for several years at Albany, N.Y. He was a linguist. He was arrested as a spy (see MONTROSE). When he was released he settled at Blakeley Ala., where he operated a business with his brother, ORIGEN (6). The following appeared in the Daily Mobile Advertiser & Register, Sunday morning, August 11, 1867.

"Died on Thursday, August 1st, at his residence in Baldwin County. Mr. Cyrus Sibley in the 84th year of his age. Mr. Sibley was born in the town of Sutton, Mass. Jan 6th, 1784. Possessed of more than ordinary intelligence and energy by nature, his spirit of enterprise induced him at an early age to seek his fortune in the great and then almost unknown portion of the

country the South West. With a character based upon sterling principles of honesty and integrity, and the nobler principle of Christianity inculcated in childhood; with a robust constitution, capable of great physical endurance, with habits of temperance and uniformity of living, he was remarkably adapted to the times in which his lot was cast and, certain of success, whatever course he might see fit to pursue.

Mr. Sibley was among the earliest settlers of Baldwin County, and entered extensively into the sawmilling business, in which he was very successful. Generous and liberal, without prodigality or ostentation, his beneficence was constantly telling the world 'BY THEIR WORKS YE SHALL KNOW THEM'. While another would be devising some plan to ameliorate the condition of a fellow creature, he would execute a plan already devised. It can hardly be said of Mr. Sibley that he waited for occasions to present themselves in order that he might exercise his benevolence—he rather sought them. Some have gone to their account, but many still living can testify to his kindness and active benevolence. He was a father to the poor, and the cause that he knew not, he searched out.

At home he was ever kind and indulgent, beloved and respected. As a husband he was a model of constancy, fidelity and affection; as a father, he was ever solicitous that his children should be instructed in the same principles that had guided him through a long and prosperous life - virtue and morality - based upon the Christian religion.

ARTEMAS ORIGIN  
b. 9 Mar 1829  
d.  
SALOME JANE  
b. 19 Dec 1829  
d. 12 Apr 1835  
ARTEMESIA ANN  
b. 31 Jul 1830  
d. 1 Sep 1903  
WILLARD FRANKLIN  
b. 18 Apr 1835  
d.  
CYRUS BLUE  
b. 12 May 1837  
d. 4 May 1858  
HELENA JANE  
b. 27 May 1839  
d. 27 Jun 1868  
HENRIETTA  
b. 1842  
d. 6 Feb 1892  
WALTER HOWARD  
b.  
d.  
AUGUSTUS  
b.  
d.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

He has left a widow and seven children, numerous family connections, and countless friends. Although age and infirmities had incapacitated him for active business during a few years past, he always manifested a lively interest in the affairs of the times, and exhibited an unimpaired mental vigor until shortly before his death. He was a man of extensive information, and conversed fluently on almost every conceivable subject.

His monument, "More Lasting Than Brass" is the affection of his family, the love and respect of his friends, and what is nobler than all, the gratitude of the widow and orphan."

-----  
His children:

ARTEMAS ORIGEN (7) Sibley b. 9 Mar 1829 d.  
m. Eloise Soria She was dau. of C.M. Soria of New Orleans, La.  
ARTEMAS O. (7) Sibley was an officer in the Confederate States Army.

ROBERT A. (8) Sibley b. 25 Nov 1855 d. 18 Jul 1902  
m. Telitha Caroline Burge 25 Apr 1882  
b. 16 Nov 1865  
d. 7 Dec 1909 She was dau. of Christopher Henderson and Salina A. (Slayson) Burge of Singer, La.

Augustus Origen (9) Sibley  
b. 20 Jul 1884 d. 1 Mar 1946

Nettie Randolph (9) Sibley  
b. 19 Sep 1886 d. 1972

Mary Eloise (9) Sibley  
b. 13 Jul 1890 d. 1957

Hattie Mae (9) Sibley  
b. 5 Aug 1896 d. 25 May 1970

Robert H. (9) Sibley  
b. 11 Jun 1900 d. 22 Jun 1900

EUGENE (8) Sibley b. d.  
m. Florence D'Olive

EUGENE (9) Sibley m. Mae Groom  
Jean (10) Sibley m. J. E. Shinn  
Kaye (10) Sibley

FLORENCE (9) Sibley m. Dan Burckly

CYRUS RUFUS (9) Sibley never married

WILLIAM FONDE (9) Sibley m. Winifred Ziema

William Fonde (10) Sibley, Jr.

Winifred Palmer "Que"(10) Sibley m. Bobby  
Gerald Jackson (Alabama football player)

CYRUS A. (8) Sibley m. Elizabeth O'Connor about 1902  
CYRUS ARTEMAN (9) Sibley

ANNIE (8) Sibley m. Felix Cirlot  
Arnold Randolph Cirlot  
Felix Lawson Cirlot  
Joseph Cirlot  
Sibley Cirlot

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

HATTIE (8) Sibley m. Charles G. Ibach  
Eloise Ibach  
ARTEMISE (8) Sibley m. an Arnold  
Hattie Arnold  
May Arnold  
WILLIAM SORIA (8) Sibley b. St. Elmo, AL d. Mobile, AL  
m. Norma Chisholm of Meridian, Miss., in Jun 1921.  
She was b. Jun 1889, d. 9 May 1959.  
NORMA LEE (9) Sibley b. 29 Mar 1922  
WILLIAM SORIA (9) Sibley, Jr.

SOLOME JANE (7) Sibley b. 19 Dec 1829 d. 12 Apr 1835  
ARTEMESIA ANN (7) Sibley m. Robert Brian Searing of  
New Orleans, La. He was b. 15 May 1829, d. 2 May 1890  
Robert Brian Searing, Jr., b. 1859, d. 1878  
Harry Pond Searing, b. 1863, d. 20 Dec 1873  
Cyrus Sibley Searing  
Cyrus Sibley Searing, Jr.  
Florence Searing  
Theodore Searing

WILLARD FRANKLIN (7) Sibley b. 18 Apr 1835 d.  
m. Amelia Harrison Starke  
WILLARD FRANKLIN (8) Sibley, Jr. b. 22 Nov 1863  
d. Jan 1926. m. Martha Findley 30 Nov 1901  
b. 8 Apr 1883 d. 25 Apr 1970  
CAROLINE (9) Sibley b. 21 Mar 1903 d. Oct 1970  
m. George Ehrhardt.  
George Ehrhardt, Jr.  
Willard Sibley Ehrhardt  
Robert Donald Ehrhardt  
Anna Barbara Ehrhardt  
MARY (9) Sibley b. 11 Jan 1905 d. m. Frank  
Moore.  
LOUIS (9) Sibley b. 29 Dec 1906 d. Dec 1934  
RICHARD HARVEY (9) Sibley b. 11 Oct 1908  
d. 8 Jan 1948. m. Annie Wolfe  
WILLARD FRANKLIN (9) Sibley III b. 8 Dec 1910  
m. Edna Virginia Mosely  
ROBERT LEE (9) Sibley b. 23 Aug 1914 d.  
m. Murkey Head  
THOMAS JACKSON (9) Sibley b. 13 Dec 1916 d.  
m. Ellen Jane Storm  
CLARA ELIZABETH (9) Sibley (Twin) b. 2 May 1920  
d. m. Lambert Lee Head  
LLOYD SEARING (9) Sibley (Twin) b 2 May 1920  
d. in infancy  
LULA BLONDELL (9) Sibley b. 23 Dec 1922  
m. Leroy Davis 21 Sep 1946. He was b. 15 Oct  
1917.  
Gordon Leroy Davis, b. 30 Nov 1948,  
m. Mary Kathleen McCoy 18 Jan 1975

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

CYRUS BLUE (7) Sibley b. 12 May 1837 d. 4 May 1858

HELEN JANE (7) Sibley b. 27 May 1839 d. 27 Jun 1868  
m. Byron Milton Pond

HENRIETTA (7) Sibley b. 1842 d. 6 Feb 1892

WALTER HOWARD (7) Sibley b. d.  
m. Onelia D'OLIVE 19 Feb 1867

AUGUSTUS (7) Sibley b. d. m. Ada D'Olive

Cyrus (6) Sibley had many other relatives and you can see them in the Family Tree.

- - - - -  
The following was researched by Boyd & Beverley Burns  
Childress:

CYRUS SIBLEY

In 1860, Cyrus Sibley was a seventy-six year-old male living in Baldwin County. His wife, Eliza was either 50 or 60 (it is blurred in the census reports), and the couple had three children under their roof--H. W., a eighteen-year-old female; Walter, a sixteen-year old male, and A. W., a thirteen-year-old male. Cyrus was born in Massachusetts, his wife in Kentucky, and all three children in Alabama. His occupation was milling, or the lumber business, and his real estate was valued at \$35,000. His personal value was \$93,000, a rather tidy sum for 1860. As stated, he was in the lumber business and had invested \$51,000 in his operations. His stand of 4000 pine trees was worth another \$7200, and his machinery was water-driven. The value of his product for 1860 was \$17,000, again a handsom profit for Alabama in 1860. Cyrus paid his 26 male workers a monthly wage of \$520(aggregate) and paid his 4 female workers \$50 monthly(total, not each). His agricultural interests were livestock--500 milk cattle, 100 other cattle, 40 sheep, 20 pigs, 7 horses, 9 mules, and 28 oxen. The value of his livestock was \$13,000 and the value of slaughtered livestock was another \$1000. His land produced 50 pounds of wool, 10 bushels of Irish potatoes, 100 pounds of sweet potatoes, 200 pounds of butter, and 2 tons of hay.

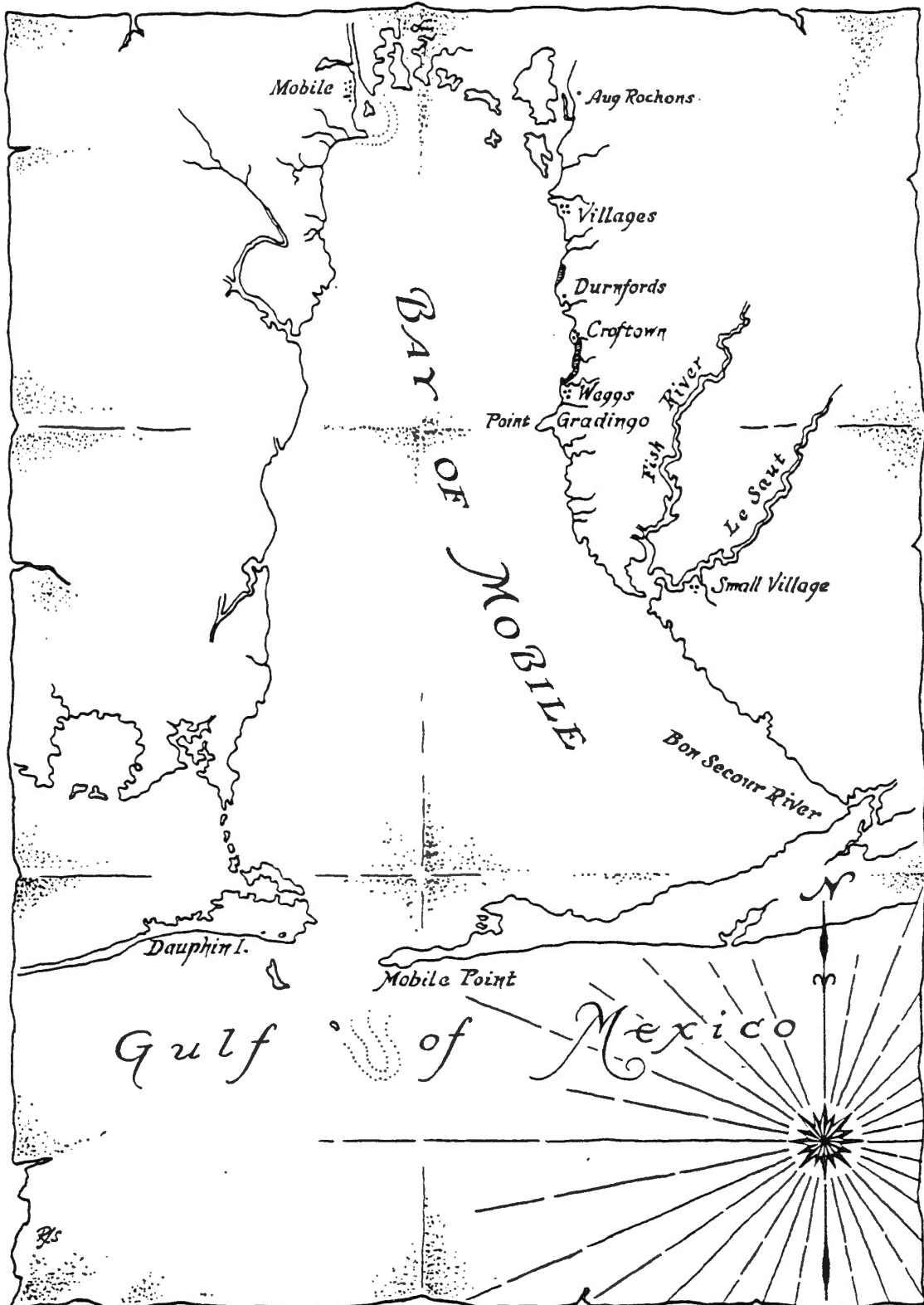
Cyrus was also a slave owner, although the extent of his slave holdings for 1860 is uncertain. What is certain is that in 1840 he owned 48 slaves, 24 of whom worked in his milling operations and five of whom worked his land. In 1830, Cyrus had owned 32 slaves, so the decade of the 1830's saw his slave holdings increase, both naturally and in purchase.

Still another noteworthy aspect of the life of Cyrus Sibley is that in 1860 and A. O. Sibley lived close by in Baldwin County with his wife Eloise (age 25) and a 4-year-old son, Robert A.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Sibley. A.O. was an overseer, possibly for Cyrus, since the latter owned so many slaves, and was probably Cyrus's son, at age 31 too old to live at home. In 1840, Cyrus had a son between the ages of 5 and 10, just the right age to be 31 in 1860. Still another local Sibley is Origen Sibley, who appeared to be a farmer--the cash value of his farm in 1860 was \$10,000 and his livestock was worth another \$4600. Origen owned close to 9000 acres of land, no small tract.

(Yes, the A.O. Sibley was Cyrus's son, ARTEMAS ORIGEN SIBLEY b. 9 Mar 1829 m. Eloise Soria and their first child was Robert A. Sibley b. 25 Nov 1855, d. 18 Jul 1902. As you have previously read, Artemas Origen Sibley was an officer in the Confederate States Army. For those of you who know Fonde & Que Sibley(Fonde's sister), Artemas Origen Sibley was their great-grandfather.)



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

WHAT OTHERS LEARNED

Have you ever started to sort old magazines, go through desk drawers or bookcases, and come upon so many things of interest that, before you know it, you have become completely immersed?

Such has been my experience when delving into the records of the past for items that would pertain to our village. More often than not I have been caught up in the account of something far from the actual thing I am seeking. However, there are many unseen and unknown factors that contribute to the background of a person or place so perhaps I was not wandering too far afield when I read of people and incidents that related to the area in and around Mobile. What affected one side of the bay usually affected the other also.

It is a matter of conjecture just how many explorers have sailed around our shores in earlier times but it is a matter of record that the bay was explored by Pineda in 1519, Narvaez in 1528, followed by Maldonado and other Spaniards, none of whom established a settlement that became permanent.

Everyone is familiar with the story of how Mobile was established by the French in 1711 so there is no need to dwell on that.

It is only after Mobile was surrendered to the English on October 20, 1763, and the historic name of Fort Conde' was changed to Fort Charlotte for the Queen of the young King of England, George III, that we begin to find many references to the Eastern Shore of the bay. It is from P. J. Hamilton's COLONIAL MOBILE that we know our high bluffs at present day Montrose began to play an important role nearly two hundred years ago.

To quote from page 194, we find that "In the fall of 1766 there was general uneasiness in exposed places and, on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, some apprehension from the Creeks (Indians). Pousset, at that time, suggested a fort over there; he said he consulted the inhabitants and they agreed that a small post somewhere above Red Cliff would be a great advantage to them."

A little further on it is learned that to Frederick Haldimand, put in command of West Florida in 1767, is due the credit for having ordered a survey of Mobile Bay by the provisional engineer, Elias Durnford. "...This survey is the most important act of the British occupation that has come down..On March 10, 1768, Durnford writes Haldimand from Mobile that when the weather became settled he would begin the survey on the east side of the bay so as to meet those (surveys) of Pittman and Gould." (p. 200.)

Durnford had a plantation on the Eastern Shore near our present village of Montrose. In a letter of March 18, 1768,

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Haldimand directed Durnford to lay out some healthy place at Red Cliffs which would accommodate about two hundred men of the Mobile garrison should the summer be unhealthy. This, it will be recollected, was the spot where Pousset some years before had wished to have a fort. "Remembering the propensity of the Governor for granting lands, Haldimand directs Durnford to reserve enough ground around the new post to supply springs and firewood. Haldimand adds that he has ordered Aikman, the Mobile commandant, to furnish such men as Durnford would need in this work which was to include also cutting and hauling logs for the larger buildings. As soon as Durnford had finished at Red Cliff he is to go on with the survey of the bay; keeping at it as long as his presence is not needed at Pensacola to represent the office of Chief Justice with Messrs. Hodge and Pousset. From which it would seem that Durnford was of varied accomplishments and the first of the line of distinguished lawyers that would live in our village." (pages 200 and 201)

On December 30, 1769, Dr. J. Lorimer makes a report to Haldimand in which he states, on page 207, that "Much has been said concerning a post on the east side of the bay and for that purpose the cliffs are generally fixed upon. They are high and some good runs of water are near there; but such a situation would be extremely inconvenient on many accounts. As their situation is in the bite of the bay they are deprived of the southern breeze by the point below Mr. Wegg's plantation. (our present Point Clear) There is, however, a bluff between Mr. Durnford's and the French village where the land is sufficiently high and there are just by it on both sides some springs and small rivulets of the finest water I have seen in the country; and by a little cutting and clearing this point might be rendered more open to the breezes than any other on the bay; and the building a blockhouse and establishing a village there would afford the best retreat for those that were attacked with the country diseases at Mobile."

"In the spring of 1770, thanks to Haldimand's influence, Elias Durnford was acting Governor. He recommended to the home government that a substitute for Mobile be built at the cliffs between his land on the one side and Mr. Wegg's on the other. He urged the healthfulness of the site and the depth of water in front. The new town which the Lieutenant-governor wished to establish was to have extended from our Rock Creek on the north to our Fly Creek on the south with these two streams dug out to furnish docks for shipping where they empty into the bay. The proposed streets were sixty and eighty feet wide, running obliquely to the shore in order to catch the breeze, and on the edge of a seventy foot bluff in the center of the town was to be the church." (appendix, page 434)

Thus, we see that the cliffs at our present village, and just below it, were a focal point for three separate projects. First, in 1766, Pousset and the Eastern Shore inhabitants felt it was the most advantageous site for a fort; second, in 1768, it was ordered



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

that a health resort for the soldiers of Fort Charlotte be established there and third; in 1770, Durnford suggested practically the same location as a substitute for Mobile.

From all this, it seems that our choice location has always been in demand. Those of us who make our homes here can certainly be thankful that a substitute for Mobile was not acted upon for then Montrose might never have been the quiet and charming village it is now.

To turn back again and find what was finally done, COLONIAL MOBILE tells on page 210, that "Captain Crofton built the long-talked-of resort at the Red Cliffs and there such of the 31st as were not needed at Fort Charlotte were taken."

Then on page 434, appendix, it says "A tracing of a map sent to Whitehall by Durnford shows that the summer camp was on the summit of the bluffs, north of what is now know as Rock Creek. It consisted of officers' barrack, soldiers' barrack and a guard-house, all at the cliff edge; while the provision store-house was on the beach almost immediately beneath. The cliff buildings were arranged in the shape of a V, open to the southeast."

Another reference to this project in the same book states on page 212 that "In March, 1771, the repairs at Fort Charlotte were under full way; the contractor at Mobile and at Croftown, too, being the energetic Pierre Rochon. A great deal was done at Red Cliffs more particularly and on April 1st, 1771, Croftown was finished. It embraced a palisaded battery with powder magazine and block-house in the rear. There Haldimand proposed to move some of the ordinance and stores from Fort Charlotte. (p. 210) By August the troops in Fort Charlotte were in miserable condition and both Dr. Brown at Pensacola and Dr. Lorimer were employed either at Mobile or the new encampment where the sick were taken from Mobile as they could be moved. Haldimand approved the Captain's acts and sent him tools. Crofton in this month asks for molasses to make spruce beer and reports men recovering. We do not know whether he used local pottery but ROMANS says the finest potters' clay he ever saw was at the village not far away on Mobile Bay where the inhabitants, like the Indians before and the Americans after them, made domestic vessels."

Other papers show that our Fly Creek was really Flying Creek (Bayou Volante) and that it was also called Bayou Fleurry. In recent years the State Highway Department replaced a marker for Fly Creek with one that read "Flying Creek" to perpetuate the original name, however, the change did not sit well with some of the old residents who had know it by its shorter name for so long; the sign was made to appear so unsightly that finally the department figuratively shrugged its shoulders and put up another sign reading "Fly Creek" and so it stands today. A community on the south of Fly Creek, at one time, bore the name Volanta; now there is a beautiful residential subdivision being developed,



36

*The Red Bluff  
Site of British camp "Croftown" in 1771*

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**ALONG THE WAY**

To touch on a subject different from that of forts and serious matters we learn also from COLONIAL MOBILE, on page 237, that "Before the American Revolution, a Dr. Fothergill of London commissioned one William Bartram, son of the distinguished botanist, John Bartram, to search the Floridas and west part of Carolina and Georgia for the discovery of rare and useful productions of nature, chiefly in the vegetable kingdom. He embarked in April, 1773, for Charleston and after arrival spent until January, 1778, exploring the southern country. In 1777 he was much in and about Mobile." Since our shore abounds in many different plants, trees, and shrubs, it is safe to assume that he included the section now known as Montrose in his search.

It was at this time that relations between England and Spain became strained and finally war was declared in 1779. There is no need to enter into the details of that war, if one is so minded, it can be found in the history books. Suffice it to say that in 1781 the war was over on the gulf; and west Florida, of which we were a part, had become a Spanish province.

One of the items recorded on page 322 about our location during this period was that "J.B. Lorand had six or seven arpens, with house and kitchen on it, at Red Bluff about the site of the British summer camp of Croftown and Lieutenant Ferriet was to buy it in 1805 for \$120.00."

On December 21, 1809, the southern part of Washington County was made into the County of Baldwin, so named for Abraham Baldwin, a Connecticut-born Georgian, who represented Georgia in the drafting of the United States constitution and who also founded the University of Georgia.

Now, we approach the time when Isabelle Narbonne Campbell, a widow, obtained a tract of twenty arpens front at the bluffs in order to put her slaves at making brick and tile. Also, it was at practically this same time, 1811, that John Forbes and Company obtained from the Trouillets an hundred and fifty arpen tract on which there was a brick and tile yard, with buildings, in the same vicinity.

It would make tedious reading to set forth the chain of title from the Isabelle N. Campbell grant on down, but certain pertinent dates and facts are of real interest. For instance, the claim of Isabelle N. Campbell was No. 44 dated August 21, 1810, twenty arpens front, ten arpens deep, area two hundred arpens, issued by Cayetano Perez, cultivation and inhabitation from 1811 to 1813.

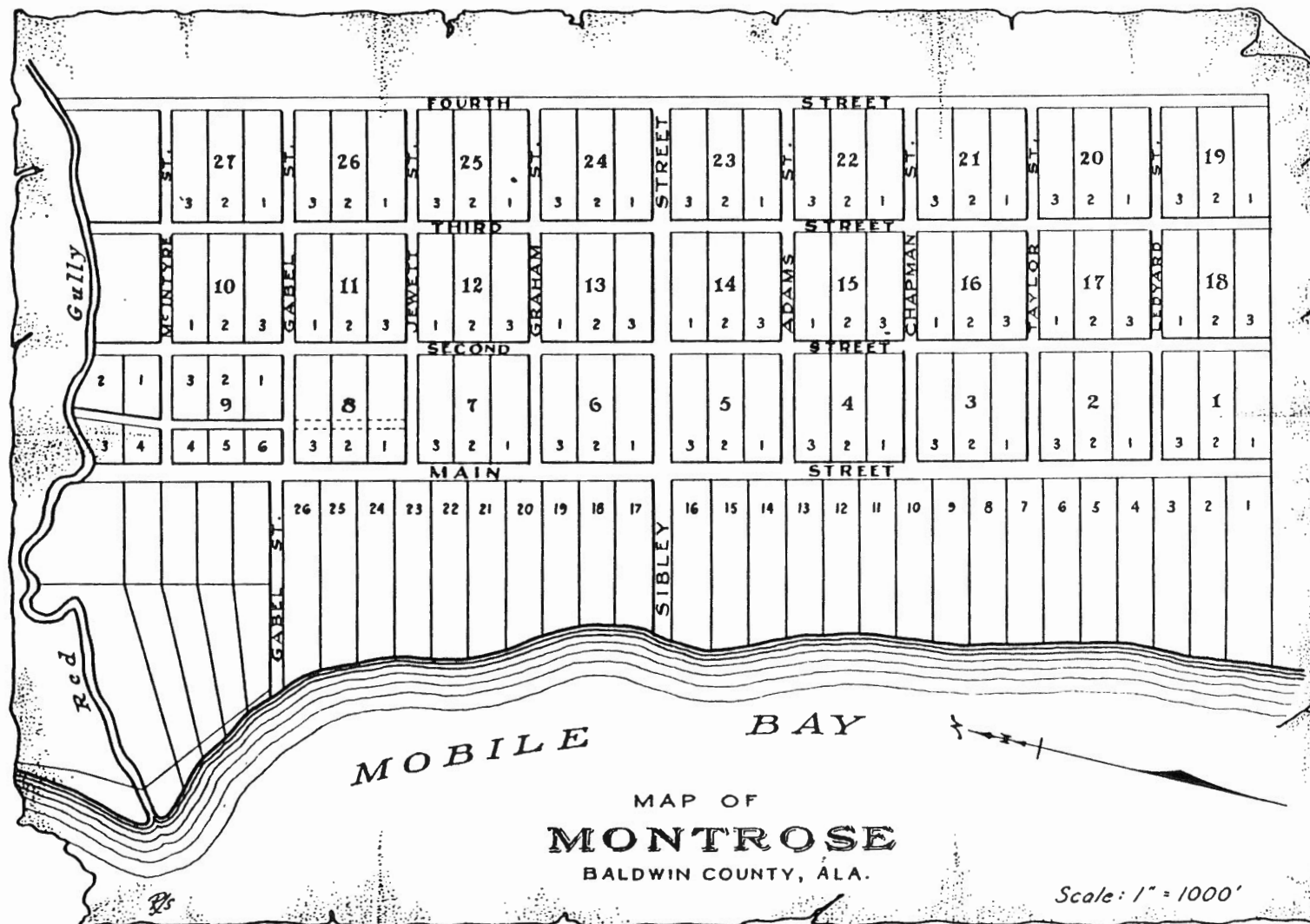
As to the definition of the arpent; (I find it spelled both ways, with and without a 't') Captain Don Vincente Sebastian Pintado, who was made the surveyor-general of West Florida with royal approval in 1806, gives us, on page 301, the basis of his

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

surveys thus: "It is to be observed, and arpent of Paris, of which use was made in Louisiana and West Florida during the Spanish domination, is a square whose side is of ten perches of Paris and, of course, contains one hundred square perches; the lineal perch of Paris is of eighteen feet of the same city. The acres are those used by the English in the Floridas and 512 of these are equal to 605 arpents of Paris."

I am sure that the definition of the arpent will not be of tremendous interest to most of us, but the term appears in early deeds and I had been asked from time to time what it meant, so here it is, whatever it may be worth to you and me.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family



Based on original survey and map by Gavin B. Yuille, C.E., Sept., 10, 1847

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**OUR VILLAGE IS BORN**

There comes to this part of the south about the year 1810 (at 24 years of age) one Cyrus Sibley, a gentleman of Massachusetts, who figured prominently in the affairs of this time and became involved in the Kemper Rebellion. Kemper, commissioner from the new state of West Florida and who had been badly treated by the Spaniards, wanted to get Mobile from under Spanish rule. So he headed a revolt, stopping near Blakeley to make speeches and incite a group to go into Mobile. He appointed Cyrus Sibley, one of the group, to take a letter to Governor Folch demanding the surrender of Mobile. A frolic was kept up at saw-mill creek where the Kemper forces lay twelve miles above Mobile and Governor Folch was informed that he could easily capture them while they were dancing and shouting. Two hundred soldiers were sent up in boats under Parades to capture the party. Many fled, but Major Hargrove and nine companions were carried to Mobile where they were thrown into a calaboose and then taken to Havana where they were immured in the dungeons of Moro Castle. Among them was Cyrus Sibley who was recognized as the bearer of the dispatch from Kemper to Folch. This broke up the Kemper Expedition. However, the men who were sent to Moro Castle remained prisoners for five years and \$6,000.00 was paid for Cyrus Sibley's release.

Now, in the spring of the year 1813 and while Cyrus Sibley was still in Moro Castle, President Madison, under Act of Congress, directed General Wilkinson, Commanding Officer at New Orleans, to take possession of Mobile. This was done and the United States extended to the Perdido River, which included our Eastern Shore. Thus, we come under the fourth of the five flags that were to fly over this area; the flag of France; of England; followed by the flag of Spain; and now the United States. Six years later, on December 14, 1819, Alabama entered the union.

To return to Cyrus Sibley who has, as I said figured prominently in the affairs of Baldwin County; Mr. Sibley was born on January 6, 1784, in Sutton, Massachusetts, to Timothy and Mary Barstow Sibley, the fourth of ten children. As we know, he came south about 1810 and took residence in Blakeley, then a thriving town; he was joined by his brother, Origen, and they lived there until the town was abandoned because of yellow fever. They then moved to Bromley, a higher and healthier location not far away, where they settled permanently and began to acquire vast holdings throughout the county.

On June 12th, 1827, he married Elizabeth Ann Humphries in Alabama and to this union nine children were born; Artemus O., Artemesia, Salome Jane, who died in 1835, Willard, Cyrus Blue, Helena, Henrietta, Walter and Augustus.

By April, 1839, he secured final title to the property original granted to Isabelle Narbonne Campbell as well as much other property adjoining it. It was duly platted as a village and

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

surveyed in metes and bounds by Gavin B. Yuille, Civil Engineer, Mobile, Alabama, whose plat dated September 10, 1847, was recorded in Deed Book E, page 388, of the Probate Records of Baldwin County on December 2, 1847. Since then it has been the reference for all land transfers within the confines of those original boundaries. At that time it was known as Sibley City; the streets were named for families living here during the early years and the central street crossing the village further perpetuated the Sibley name.

A short distance from the eastern terminus of this street he established a saw-mill on Rock Creek. Nothing remains now of the old mill, but the site has long been called the "Old Mill Pond" and, through the years, has been a favorite spot for fresh-water fishing.

Mr. Sibley never made his home here but much of the property in the village was distributed among his children and other relatives. Some of them disposed of their portion while others retained it for their descendents.

Among those who did retain theirs was his daughter, Helena, who married a Mr. Pond. For a couple of generations the lot lay idle but, in recent years, a grandson Harry Searing Pond, Jr., came over from New Orleans with his wife, Elizabeth, and their son, Harry the 3rd, and built their lovely home here in Montrose. It is located on Lot 3, the highest point on the coastline between Maine and Mexico; although many people writing of the Eastern Shore erroneously locate the highest point elsewhere.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family



*Mary McNeill Fenollosa,  
grand-daughter of Origen Sibley*



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**MORE ABOUT THE SIBLEYS**

Of that very interesting and active family of Sibley, there are descendents here in Montrose of Origen Sibley.

Origen, the tenth child of his parents, was born June 25, 1798, in Thompson, Massachusetts, and while still a young man he joined his brother Cyrus at Blakeley, Alabama. They acquired vast holdings of the virgin timberlands and operated sawmills in addition to having large plantations which were worked by slave labor.

Origen married Miss Elizabeth Barlow of Norfolk, Virginia, the daughter of Rev. Aaron and Zilpah Watson Barlow. Their children were: Josephine, Salome, Origen, Jr., Laura, Franklin, Helen, Charles, Eugene, Guy and Julia.

Origen, Jr., married Miss Harriett Brainard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Brainard of Montrose and they made their home in Mobile where their two sons, Brainard and Origen, 3rd, were born and reared.

Julia married Mr. Ed S. Barnes, son of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Barnes of Montrose and they also made their home in Mobile. Four sons were born to them; Anderson, Ed S. Jr., Pendleton and Eager and when grown they became identified with the business and religious life of the city.

Laura Sibley was born April 11, 1846, and with her sisters and brothers received her basic education by private tutorage in their home at Bromley as was the custom in those days. Her further schooling was received at Judson College, Alabama.

On March 8, 1864 she married Mr. William Stoddard McNeill of Mobile whose father, Daniel McNeill, came from England as a representative of the famous London and Liverpool Company to establish the first life insurance agency in Mobile.

At the beginning of the Civil War, William Stoddard McNeill was a student at St. James School in Maryland but he left college to join the Confederate Army. He was in several major engagements that took place in the State of Virginia during the early part of the war and after each battle he had the date and name of the battle engraved in the cover of his watch. Since his marriage to Laura Sibley took place during the days of strife and it was necessary for him to be absent at even crucial moments, he instructed his young wife that, should a state of siege exist when their first child was to be born, she should show his Masonic ring to an officer of the Northern forces. Such a contingency did arise and she received the consideration and help needed.

The children born to Laura and William McNeill were: Mary Elizabeth, William Stoddard, Jr., who died in childhood; Lawrence,

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Frances Ethel, Daniel and Lila.

Lila married Mr. John F. Glennon of Mobile, whose father, Major James K. Glennon, was owner of the famous Point Clear Hotel for many years. John Glennon, who was possessed of a brilliant mind, became an outstanding historian of this area, and he gave much of his time to civic and cultural activities. Of his very interesting life a whole book might be written and I feel richer that I had the pleasure of knowing him during my years with the first Little Theatre of Mobile.

There were seven children born to the union of Lila and John Glennon and one of them, Grace Louise Tieman is a resident of our village. She comes to us from New York where she was an illustrator for a number of years and now she is prominently identified with the artistic world in Alabama, Florida and Mississippi; her portrait work, especially, is in great demand. To her intimates she is known as "Chichi" and by this name her work is signed.

Another daughter of Laura and William McNeill, Mary Elizabeth, was born on March 8, 1865, at her grandfather's plantation, "Chestnut Ridge" in Pine Hill, Wilcox County, Alabama. This daughter was destined for a life of great activity and one that brought her fame in the literary world. She attended Miss Quigley's Female Academy in Mobile and it is said that writing became her desire early in life. After her graduation she married Ludolph Chester and there was one son of that marriage, Alan, who now lives in Virginia; her husband died not long afterwards. After her husband's death, Mary Elizabeth continued her writing and, because of the feeling by many that women should not be novelists, she adopted the pen name of "Sidney McCall."

Mary Elizabeth's second marriage, when she was about twenty-four years old, was to another Mobilian, Ledyard Scott. That took them to Japan since Mr. Scott was in the American Consular Service and was also an instructor in the Princes' school there. Mrs. Scott became intensely interested in the Japanese people and their ways and began writing about them. However, she came back to Mobile for the birth of her daughter, our own Erwin Whatley of present day Montrose. Soon thereafter this marriage was dissolved.

Back in the United States with a knowledge of the Japanese language and people she secured a secretarial position in the oriental section of the Boston Museum. There she met and later married Professor Ernest F. Fenollosa, a distinguished scholar and educator, who was curator of the museum's oriental section. About that time he accepted an invitation to join the faculty of the Imperial University at Tokyo where he soon became engrossed in Japanese art also. His wife shared his enthusiasm in this new field and it was on a visit to England, where they had gone in connection with their art studies, that Professor Fenollosa died.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

So deep was the regard of Japanese leaders and people for the professor that they arranged for his ashes to be brought from England to Japan and buried in the Temple yard at Miidera, Japan. Some months later, Mrs. Fenollosa and her daughter sailed to Japan to be present at the unveiling of a monument on the grave.

Mrs. Fenollosa's published works are: OUT OF THE NEST; A FLIGHT OF VERSES, 1899; CHILDREN'S VERSES ON JAPANESE SUBJECTS, 1899; THE DRAGON PAINTER, 1906; ARIADNE OF ALLAN WATER, 1914; BLOSSOMS FROM A JAPANESE GARDEN, illustrated from paintings by Japanese artists, 1915; SUNSHINE BEGGARS, 1918; THE STIRRUP LATCH, 1916; AND CHRISTOPHER LAIRD, 1919.

At the time of Professor Fenollosa's death in 1908, he had prepared a monumental study EPOCHS OF CHINESE AND JAPANESE ART but the editing and final preparation for publication were still to be done. His widow put aside her own writing for the time being and for four years, with her daughter assisting her, she worked on this tremendous task; in about 1912 the two volumes were published.

After a life of talent and privilege, such as is accorded to very few, Mary McNeill Fenollosa passed away at the home of her daughter, Erwin Whatley, in Montrose, on Monday, January 11, 1954, in her eighty-ninth year. She was laid to rest in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile.

Erwin Whatley, who was so kind about furnishing most of the material for this chapter, is my next door neighbor on the north. With her, lives her daughter, Betty Winslow, and Betty's daughter, Barry, who has just completed her training as a nurse and is now Mrs. Brian Pearson.



*"Red Oaks"*

*Home of Miss Elizabeth Alberta Garrett  
whose family has owned the property since 1848*

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**SISTER JOINS BROTHERS**

Sarah Salome Sibley, a sister of Cyrus and Origen, was born in Sutton, Massachusetts, on April 13, 1788. Between the years 1793 and 1795 their parents moved to Thompson, Wyndam County, Connecticut, where on September 14, 1814, Sarah Salome was married to the Reverend Elijah Jewett of Thompson. Of their five children, Marie Louise, John Franklin, and Origen Sibley were born in Connecticut. They then moved to Georgia on account of Mr. Jewett's health and Mary Ann Elizabeth was born on October 28, 1824, at Thomaston, Upland County; Susan Rebecca was born two years later at Columbus, Georgia. Mr. Jewett died in Columbus on September 1, 1830, and after his death Mrs. Jewett traveled by stagecoach through the Creek nation to Montgomery, Alabama. From there she came by boat down the Alabama River to Mobile and then crossed Mobile Bay to Blakeley where her brothers Origen and Cyrus Sibley lived. She moved to Mobile in 1836 with her three surviving children, John, Origen and Mary Ann Elizabeth.

Mrs. Jewett always interested herself in church work, being one of the seven who formed the First Baptist Church in Mobile, and she was also very charitable and kind to the poor. Being small in stature, about five feet three inches, with light brown hair, blue eyes and fair complexion, she was said to be very pretty as a girl; witty, well read and unusually well educated. Her tales of early Indian days, about the friendly braves who prowled about her home, were much appreciated by her grandchildren for they were interested in stories of that fast vanishing nation whom they saw only occasionally when vegetables were brought into Mobile by the Indians from an outlying settlement. She told of a visit of two Indians to her cottage at Thomaston where she had a bottle of red-pepper pods and vinegar on the table. They pointed to the bottle and she handed it to them wondering what they would do. One Indian took a drink and passed it to the other one who also took a drink; they looked at each other and said Ha! Ha! then passed on. They evidently thought it whiskey.

Mrs. Jewett was very fond of reading her large print Bible in bed by candle-light as she was brought up in the days of candles. Members of the family had to look in on her frequently to see that she was in no danger of setting the mosquito netting about her bed on fire in case she dropped off to sleep. She was wonderfully well preserved, retaining all her faculties to the day of her death on May 26, 1883, at the residence of her son-in-law, A. M. Elgin, in Mobile. She died at the advanced age of ninety-five and is buried in the family lot in Magnolia Cemetery.

During the Civil War, Mrs Jewett's son Origen, who had married Miss Clara Lee James of Montgomery, entered the Confederate Army and lost his life at the Battle of Chickamauga; John married Miss Elizabeth Hall of Mobile; Mrs. Jewett's daughter, Mary Elizabeth, first married Mr. Charles McCullough of Wilmington, Delaware, in May, 1843 and had two children of whom

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

only Mary Salome survived.

The following is a letter to her by her Uncle Cyrus Sibley just prior to this marriage:

"My dear niece:

I would feign be with you on Tuesday but your cousin William and Aunt Eliz will be over and we cannot all leave home at once and do right.

You are about to join your destiny to that of a very worthy young man of warm temperament and your and his future happiness will much depend upon yourself. Steady, uniform and uninterrupted kindly conduct will insure a return in kind; one cannot be happy without the other is. Little bickerings will heal over it is true but they will always leave a scar. Avoid earnest argument as much as possible and never insist on the last word. 'Tis that which has marred the happiness of very many. Cheerfulness is the sun of domestic life and the bright smile at meeting relieves the mind oppressed by the cares of the world like a charm. Read much in the Bible for there you will learn your duty - and induce, by gentle means, your husband to do likewise that he may know and practice his. The precepts of that good Book are intended to further our happiness in this life as well as in that which is to come. Live well and God will make you die well.

With my best wishes for your well being, I remain dear niece,

M. Elizabeth Jewett  
May 14, 1843.  
Blakeley

Your affectionate uncle,  
  
Cyrus Sibley "

It was to this niece, Mary Elizabeth McCullough that Cyrus Sibley, in consideration of love and affection, deeded Lot 15 in the Village of Montrose on October 25, 1848. She had her choice of lots and chose this one because of the beautiful red oaks growing there. The place was given the name of "Red Oaks" and so it is called today even though many of those oaks have been lost by storms through the century and more that has passed.

Mary Elizabeth's second marriage which took place at "Red Oaks" on November 7, 1854, was to Mr. Armstead Mason Elgin of Loudon County, Virginia, by whom she had five children. Three lived to maturity; Mae, Isabella and Clara. Mae married Mr. Ed Cauffman of Virginia; Isabella married Mr. C. E. Thames of Mobile and two of their three sons, Elgin and Ellis now live in Montrose on Lot 21. Eugene, who became a physician and surgeon in Mobile, died June 8, 1942, leaving a widow Catheryn, now prominent in D. A. R. circles and one son Eugene, Jr.

Clara Elgin married Mr. Hill Fitz Patrick and was widowed within a few years; there were no children. It is from Clara

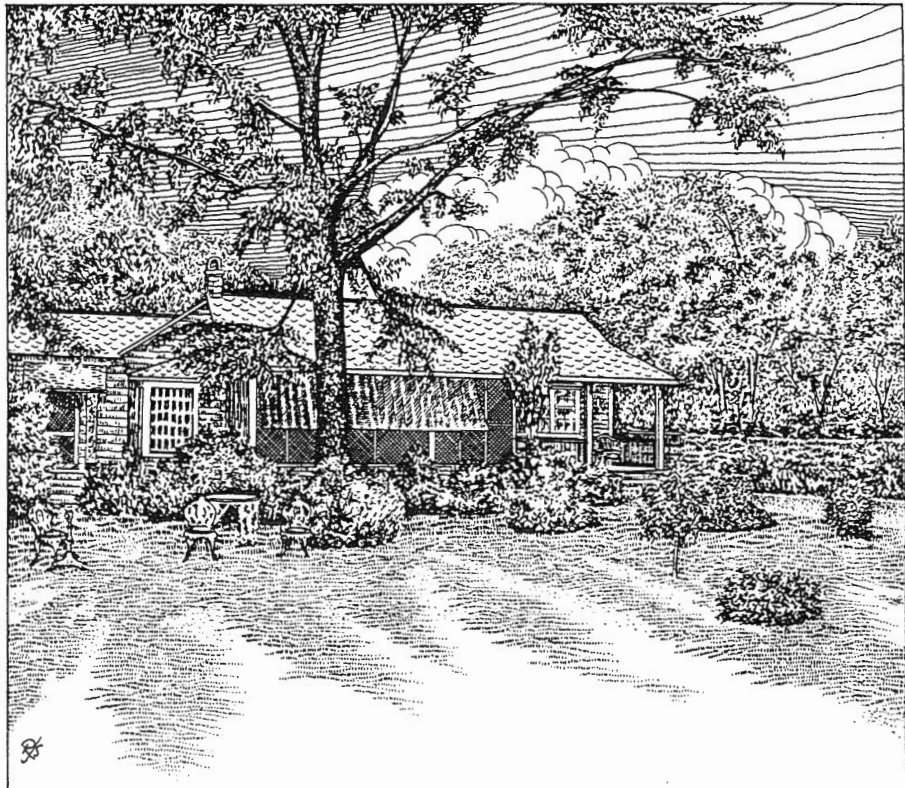
**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Elgin Fitz Patrick, whom I have known and loved since my girlhood, that I was given the information here set forth about her very interesting family. It is from her records, also, that she gave me an account of the wedding of her half-sister, Mary Salome McCullough who married Mr. W. A. Garnett of Virginia. The steamer "Annie" was chartered and brought the groom and Mobile guests to Montrose for the wedding which took place in the hall at Red Oaks. After the wedding breakfast, where champagne flowed freely, the "Annie" carried the bride, groom and guests back to Mobile where the wedded pair left for their honeymoon. Of their three children, Charles, Mary Salome and Elizabeth Alberta; the latter, Miss "Bertie" as she is affectionately called by her neighbors, now occupies the family home which until recently was shared with her Aunt Clara who passed away on April 25, 1959, at the age of ninety-six.

From Mrs. Fitz Patrick's records also comes this account of her mother: "It is said that Mrs. Elgin was an example of true womanhood; a type of those elegant women of the old south, refined and cultured. She exhibited in her home life all the womanly graces; she was a devoted wife and mother; a true friend loved by young and old. She was honored for her consistent life, her tender heart and strong adherence to principle."

The present home at "Red Oaks" was first built for servants quarters and consisted of two rooms and a hall. The main house was to have been built in front of these quarters on the brow of the hill. The Civil War broke out and the home was never built but additions were made to the cottage from time to time. At first the drinking water was brought up to the house from a spring half way down the bluff and later a well was dug. Incidentally, the water coming from the dug wells at each home was clear, pure and unusually cold.

Cyrus, Origen and Sarah Salome Sibley were of the sixth generation of American Sibleys descended from Captain John Sibley who came with Higginson in Winthrop's fleet from England to America in 1629 and settled in Massachusetts.



*"The Cottage"*

*Home of the Olivers - Mrs. Oliver is  
a great-granddaughter of Mariah E. Allen  
-- one of the "Ladies from New England"*



**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**LADIES FROM NEW ENGLAND**

On February 28, 1855, Cyrus and Eliza A. Sibley, his wife, deeded to Julia L. Brewer and Mariah E. Allen, natives of his own New England section, Lot 1 in Block 14 in the Village of Montrose as a homesite. The pines were cut from the lot and it is presumed were made into lumber at Mr. Sibley's mill nearby for a two-story house was soon erected. There, these two ladies, who were sisters and both widows, lived and with their mother, Mrs. Drew, kept a boarding house. There, during the Civil War they entertained General Canby and his entire staff of officers at dinner. Although they were in the Southland because they loved it and believed in it, they were aware of General Canby's reputation for fair dealings and deemed it both wise and prudent to be hospitable. Two of the dining chairs used on that occasion are now in Mrs. Jack Oliver's home for she is a great-grand-daughter of Mrs. Allen and her home is on the south half of that family homesite. (The Howard Rush family now own and occupy the house on the corner that was Mrs. Allen's) There, also, was reared the only child of John and Mariah Allen, Annie Julia.

In an autograph album presented to Miss Annie Julia Allen by her father, John B. Allen, dated Mobile, June 14, 1848, is this inscription written by her mother, Maria E. Allen.

"My daughter Annie

This book was a present from thy father when thou was't too young to know the love he felt for thee. He was called away and left it spotless and pure as thine own heart and mind.

Thy mother now dedicates it, hoping its pages may be filled by kind and sincere friends.

And most earnestly does she pray that every page of thy life may be a record of deeds, of love, and charity, and ever remain spotless and without blemish.

May the wings of His love ever o'ershadow thee and keep thee from harm. May He give thee wisdom to direct thee, and strength to sustain thee in all the trials of life. And, when the volume of life's pages are filled, may He take thee gently to rest in Heaven.

This is the sincere prayer of thy Mother.

Mobile.

Maria E. Allen"

Sept. 17th, 1857.

On the opposite page this is written: "May God' in His infinite mercy bless my Friends and Foes. Annie Julia Allen, Montrose, Alabama, 1864."

Since the autographs contained in this album are dated from 1860 through 1863, it is safe to assume that some of those who signed it may have been members of opposing forces that were in our village during those years (yet personable young men) hence the blessing on Foes as well as friends.

Annie Julia Allen married William Turner Holland, a native of

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Georgia then living in Mobile. Their time was divided between Mobile where Mr. Holland was in business and Montrose where they spent their summers and where their retiring years were spent.

To Mr. and Mrs. Holland were born seven children, six of whom lived to maturity; William, Lydia, Ross, Irene, Harry and Elliot. Irene, who was known to most of us as "Miss Rena", never married and became a business woman. Harry married Miss Amelia Dryer of Daphne and there were no children. The other boys married and lived in other sections of the country except Ross who married Miss Lillian Faith of Mobile. Their daughter married and lives in Birmingham and their son, Lyman, who became a lawyer, married Miss Louise Wisdom of Mobile. They had one son, Lyman, Jr., who followed in the footsteps of his father and maternal grandfather by becoming a lawyer.

Lydia Holland married Cyrus Lewis Sibley, who was a grandson of the original Cyrus and who was also the grandson of Major Lewis Starke of whom we will have more to say. There were six children born to Lydia and Cyrus, three of whom died in infancy or childhood. The remaining three; Annie Allen, Lydia Holland and Wilfred Alwyn all received their education in the Mobile schools. Wilfred spent much time in traveling and in work and study away from Mobile; - quite some time being spent with the diplomatic service in South America; he and his attractive wife, Frances, now make their home in Daphne. Holland married J. Norman Shelton, now an officer in the Merchants National Bank, and their home is in Mobile.

Annie Allen Sibley is affectionately called "Ann" by most of her friends and with her I played dolls, climbed trees and went swimming during the summers she and her family spent in Montrose. Although she studied dress designing in New York and has used it to good advantage she went back to the secretarial field and for many years was secretary to Judge J. Blocker Thornton. When he became Mobile's Postmaster, she continued as his secretary and there in the Post Office world she met and married Jack Howard Oliver, a native of Mississippi. To them one daughter, Jacqueline Mason, was born. Soon thereafter the Olivers moved to Montrose to make their home permanently in what was once known as "The Gray Cottage" so called for the family connection by the name of Simon P. Gray who once lived there. The name is now shortened to "The Cottage" where Ann and Jack, now retired, have a fascinating shop of antique furniture, glass and china. With no fanfare or advertising, a beaten path has been made to their door by seekers of the beautiful and choice things assembled there from many sections of the country.

Their lovely daughter, Jacqueline, and her husband, James William Finley, who were married in November, 1957, live just a block away in their new home.

Another great-grandfather of Annie Sibley Oliver, who once

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

lived in what is now Montrose, was Major Lewis Starke. In 1825, just two years before the marriage of Cyrus Sibley the first, Major Starke married Miss Louisa Dolive and to them six daughters and one son were born. One of these daughters, Amelia, married Willard Sibley, a son of Cyrus and Eliza Sibley, and it was one of their sons, Cyrus Lewis Sibley, who married Miss Lydia Holland.

An obituary of Major Lewis Starke which appeared in a newspaper of that day, was loaned me by Ann Oliver and since it contains the history of his colorful life, I am setting it down in full:

"Died on the 4th of February, 1872, in Baldwin County, Ala., Major Lewis Starke in the 74th year of his age.

Major Starke was born in Fairfield District, South Carolina. He was a nephew of John, or Jack, Starke of Revolutionary fame who distinguished himself at the Battle of Cowpens, and in 1824 rendered himself conspicuous by tearing off the patriot badge from the shoulder of one Darling Jones, a notorious Tory, and kicked him from the ranks of the Revolutionary Patriots who had formed a procession to receive General Lafayette on his return to America in 1824.

Major Starke was also a second cousin of Starke Perry, ex-governor of Florida, and was connected by marriage and the ties of consanguinity with many of the first families of South Carolina and other states of the south.

At the early age of fifteen years, in company with an elder brother, he ran away from his uncle, the present Turner Starke of Baldwin County, Alabama, to join the United States Army and on the 20th day of August, 1813, himself and brother enlisted in Captain B. F. Elmore's company, 18th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, stationed at Fort Johnson, South Carolina. In a short time after his enlistment he was made First Corporal and a short time thereafter was promoted to the rank of Orderly Sergeant and served in that capacity with credit and attracted the favorable notice of Lieutenant-Colonel Clinch who was in command of the regiment. After the close of the war with England he remained in the army and in 1818 when war broke out between the United States and the Seminoles he served with General Jackson and was personally connected with some of the most startling and stirring incidents of the war. On one occasion he was put in command of a party of ten men and sent by Jackson on some important expedition to some point on the Chattahoochie river. They were marching directly into the heart of the enemy's country to a small block house situated near the river. On their arrival there they were suddenly surrounded by about 150 of the fierce and bloodthirsty Seminoles who, with their fierce shouts of so many demons, attacked the block-house on all sides and for three days and nights kept up a continuous fire. Sergeant Starke had, during the first night, succeeded in having a piroque full of water dragged up from the river which was all these handfull of heroes had to sustain life as they had consumed all of their provisions the first day. They were relieved on the morning of the fourth day by some troops from a distant fort. He acted as private secretary to General Jackson during the war and was recommended by him for

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

promotion and in the early part of 1818 was promoted by brevet to the rank of Major.

After the close of the war at the earnest solicitation of his uncle, General Turner Stark, he resigned, and was discharged at Mt. Pelier, in Baldwin County, on the 20th day of August, 1818. In 1819 he came, and in connection with General Turner Starke, contracted with the United States Government to make brick to build Fort Morgan on Mobile Bay.

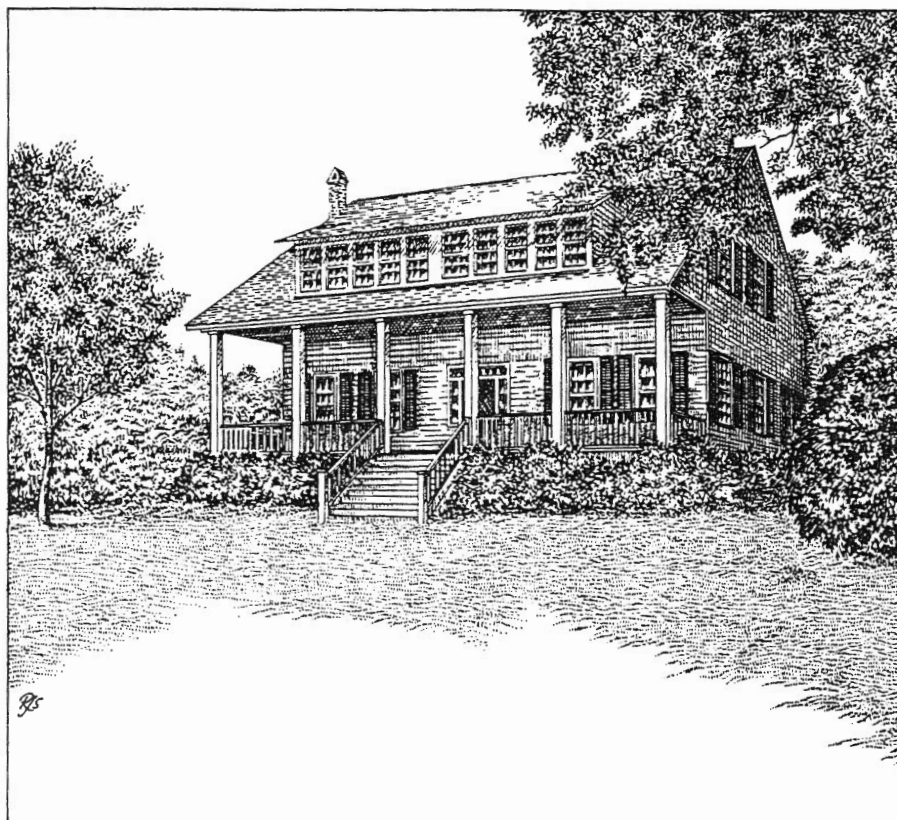
In 1825 he married Miss Louisa Dolive of Baldwin County and resided for several years on the Eastern Shore at Rock Creek or Red Bluffs. He then removed four miles higher up the bay to what was then known as White Bluffs where he resided until his death. (at the Village)

In the death of Major Starke the community at large and Baldwin County in particular, has lost one of their most prominent and estimable citizens and his death might truly be deemed a public calamity for no one in the country has contributed more generously toward relieving the distressed and afflicted. No one ever called on him for aid and went away empty handed. He was truly the benefactor and friend of the needy and distressed and was the peer in manliness and chivalric sentiment of the highest in the land. His heart knew no fear of anything mortal yet in his intercourse with his fellowman and in all the amenities and courtesies of life, he was most genial and kind. In early manhood he was a soldier from plume to spur and throughout his life was ever the courtly and knightly gentleman and true type of that grand old stock of the true Southern gentleman who, alas, are rapidly passing away. In politics he was always a Henry Clay Whig and although time had laid his hand too heavily upon his head to fit him for an active part in the tumultuous scenes and incidents of a fierce and sanguinary war, his heart was with his people and he did all that a man of his age and health could do to drive back the hordes who were desolating his native land.

The heart grows sad to think that such men and kindred spirits must bow their necks to the terrible fate which has been forced upon them. He has been taken from us but all who knew him will kindly cherish his memory and drop a garland upon his grave. He leaves five children and two brothers to mourn his loss.

'Baldwin' "

Major Lewis Starke's uncle, General Turner Starke, who died April 4, 1827, at the age of forty-five years, is buried in old Church Street Cemetery, Mobile, by the side of his wife.



*"Seven Gables"*

*Now the home of  
the W. W. Breckenridges*

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**SEVEN GABLES**

One of the typical old homes of the days "before the war" is the one that stands on Lot 14 overlooking Mobile Bay and whose rooms have heard the sound of many different voices.

As we learn in another chapter, the property was sold by Cyrus Sibley to Thomas Adams in December of 1847. I have found no record of his having lived there but records do show that in 1855 Mr. Adams sold the property to members of the Brainard family. Soon afterward, a large two-story home was built by slave labor from lumber cut by the Sibley Mill at Rock Creek and for many years it was known as "The Brainard Place."

During the Civil War, when Admiral Farragut's fleet was coming up the bay, the house was occupied by Mrs. Mary Jane Covington, (whose husband was a brother of Mrs. William Brainard) and her four young daughters. They went out on the front gallery to watch the ships and, to their amazement, shell-fire began and was directed at the house; fortunately, the shells fell short and burst on the bluff. In order that they might be protected from further danger, Mrs. Covington offered a room to some Union officers and from then on the family had no trouble. Some soldiers did stick their bayonets in the yard to see if they could find where the silver was buried, but it had been buried in the cornfield.

The young Covington girls grew up and three of them married three Dolive brothers; Lillie became Mrs. Mederick Dolive; Evie, Mrs. Walter Dolive and Katherine married Mr. Silas Dolive; the fourth sister, Mary Jane, became Mrs. Howard Hall. The Mederick Dolives made their home in Orlando, Florida, and many years after the Civil War, Mr. Dolive was discussing the conflict with an Admiral from the Hartford. The Admiral confessed that he always regretted an order he had given, when coming up Mobile Bay, to fire on a house where a woman and some girls could be seen on the front gallery. Mr. Dolive replied "You old Yankee, one of those girls is now my wife!"

By the turn of the century, the Brainard family had all gone from Montrose and the estate was in process of being settled. About this time there came down from Chicago, Mrs. Alice M. Graham, a widow, and her son, Harold. They lived in Fairhope for two winters and then rented the Brainard place in Montrose; they lived there for a year and then bought it from the estate in April of 1902.

Harold attended a Preparatory School in Jackson, Alabama, for two years and then went to Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, until 1910, specializing in Civil Engineering. He spent three years as foreman of bridge construction in the middle-west and then for about twelve years he did industrial engineering throughout the country.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Some years after his mother's death, Mr. Graham returned to Montrose and decided to retire early while he could enjoy it. Being of an active and constructive nature, however, he began a small house, constructed of stone, on the north half of his property, intending it to be a combined workshop and garage. In 1929 he was approached as to the sale of the large house and that spring he sold it to Miss Ellen Crawford. He moved into the small stone house and found it much to his liking.

His next project was to build a twenty-six foot cabin cruiser, right there in his workshop, and it was a source of much interest to the men and boys of the neighborhood, and perhaps a bit of envy too, for who among them had so much freedom and opportunity to indulge in a hobby?

At last the boat was finished and transported to Fish River where Mr. Graham owned property and there he launched it and set up housekeeping on it. Gradually his services as a land-surveyor demanded more and more of his time, so that by World War II, he found himself in charge of the, W.P.A., both field and office, in the Fairhope area. Since that time, he has continued with his surveying and is busier than ever - his retirement a happy memory.

The house on the north half of Lot 14, became the property of Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Hammet, formerly of Daphne, and it is now the home of two of their daughters; Mrs. Jack Stanford, and Mrs. Don Stewart and her son, Silliam, better known as Bill.

To return to the old house, at the time Miss Ellen Crawford bought it, she was instructor in French at Mississippi State College for Women at Columbus. She was a graduate of the University of Michigan and in preparation for her work at Columbus, she had spent a year of study in France; first at the University at Poitiers and then at the Sarbonne in Paris, and during her years at Columbus she conducted European tours in the summer. Having made her choice of a home in Montrose, however, Europe had no further lure and, for the first summer in the home which she had named "Seven Gables", she conducted a camp for college girls.

Miss Crawford resigned her post at Columbus in the winter of 1936 and came to make her home here the year 'round. She was joined by her sister, Mrs. Emma Voris, and then by her niece, Mrs. J. Lynn Crawford. By the time "Seven Gables" was completely restored and redecorated, an afternoon tea was held for all their Montrose neighbors. That kindled a spark of social activity in our village that had been dormant too long and, from that time forward, there has been a blending of formal and informal entertaining governed by the occasion or the mood of the hostess.

Miss Crawford's delightful home was open to paying guests from time to time and often those who came decided to purchase property here and remain in Montrose. The R. R. Browns from

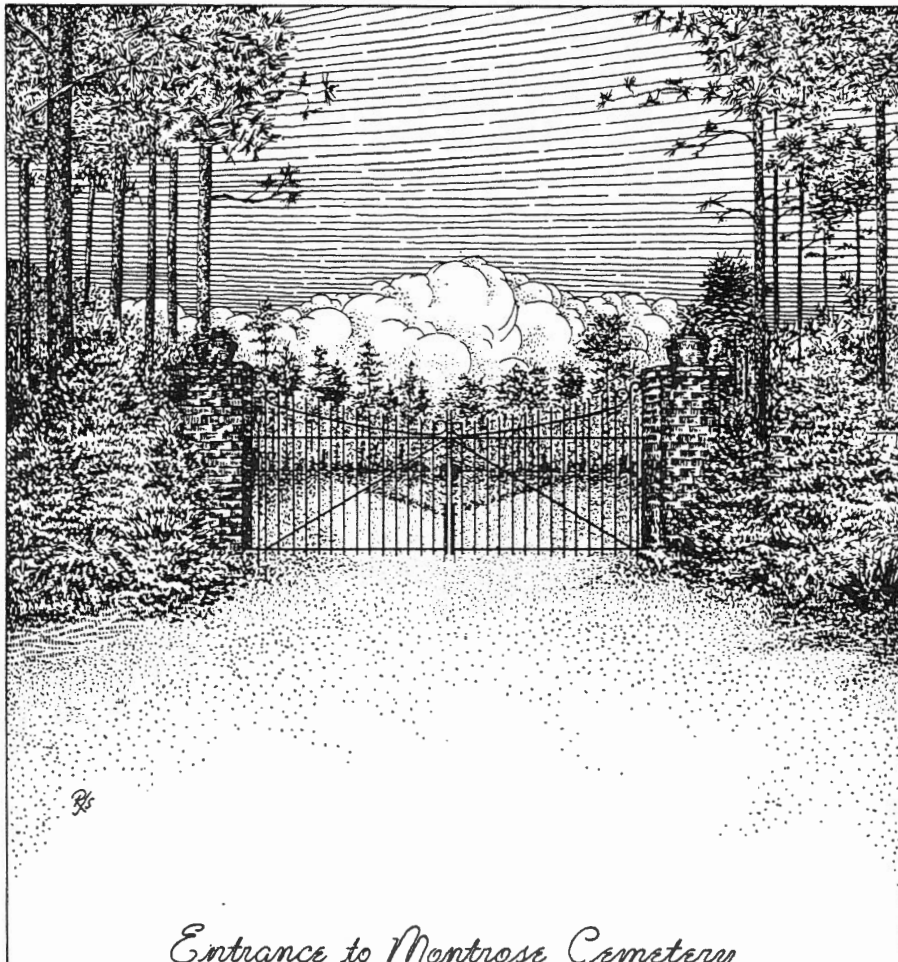
**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

from Michigan were among those who did that and the Stanley W. Newmans from New York. Mr. and Mrs. Newman bought "Seven Gables" from Miss Crawford in January of 1948 and further enhanced the natural beauty of the grounds by border planting of azaleas and camellias. They had two fine sons, William and Edward, who attended schools at Fairhope and Mobile and then went on to finish at Universities. The family took an active part in the civic, cultural and social life along the shore and on their change of residence we will touch in another chapter.

At this point, I would like to say that when "Seven Gables" was sold in 1948, Miss Ellen Crawford and her sister moved to Fairhope in order to be nearer a doctor's care, but Mrs. J. Lynn Crawford remained in Montrose where she has occupied an attractive home on the bay-front ever since and where she has made the yard a beauty spot with her flair for landscaping and flower culture. Now "Miss Ellen" is there also and occasionally she coaches the young people of the neighborhood as she has done through the years.

Once more "Seven Gables" has new owners, for in 1951 it was sold by the Newmans to Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Breckenridge, recently retired from business in West Virginia. A close friend, Miss Mary White, also makes her home there with them and so well has this household blended in with our village, that the beauty and tranquility of the old place continues and is a favorite spot for their friends from far and near.





*Entrance to Montrose Cemetery*

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**MONTROSE CEMETERY**

After the village of Montrose began to increase in population, it became evident to its founder, Cyrus Sibley, that certain provisions must be made to meet its future needs. Therefore, on October 20, 1856, he and his wife, Eliza, deeded to A.M. Elgin, A. E. Ledyard, John T. Taylor, Samuel Burns, and Thomas P. Miller, as Trustees, as follows: "Unto the trustees and actual possession now given and to their heirs and assigns forever, all the estate, right, title, interest, use, trust property, claim and demand whatsoever at law as well as in equity, in possession as well as in expectancy of, into and out of all and singular, viz; all that piece, parcel or lot of land as follows, situate at and in Montrose, County of Baldwin, State of Alabama - Square No. twenty-three (23), commencing at the intersection of Sibley and Fourth Streets.....(here followed the detailed description by metes and bounds)....for the purpose of being, and for school, church and burial place." All of which seemed to have everything taken care of. However, many things did, and did not happen. In 1859 Square 12 was deeded to a group of trustees for a school and we will take that up more fully in another chapter.

The trustees named in the first deed here mentioned, were men of high standing and business acumen and it is to be supposed that they did all that was required of them at that time. However, if they kept any written records, they have never come to light. Also, they apparently made no replacements of their Board members or it seems there would have been the continuance of a governing group. This is said, not in the spirit of criticism, but as an explanation of the steps that were taken in later years. Of course, during and after the Civil War, there were many more urgent aspects of life that took the time, attention and financial resources of our little community. Also there were residents who had their family burial plots in Mobile or elsewhere. Only a few 'round families continued to use the Montrose Cemetery and, as surely as the years passed, so surely did the woods' fires come each spring and sweep through it, burning all wooden fences that enclosed family plots and making the place desolate as well as vulnerable to the cattle that roamed at large seeking the fresh grass that sprang up after the fires.

For these reasons, and many others, a meeting of the residents was held and I will quote from the minutes of that first meeting on November 12, 1927: "At a meeting of the citizens of Montrose, held this date, it was decided to form the Montrose Cemetery Association for the purpose of fencing and watching over the nine-acre tract given to the village of Montrose as a cemetery. The following were elected as trustees of the association; Mrs. Annie M. Randall, Mr. Thomas O. Loftus, Mr. Prescott A. Parker. Record of this association was filed by Mr. Parker with the Judge of Probate (G. W. Humphries) of Baldwin County, Alabama, on November 22nd, 1927, and is shown on page 387, Record Book #2 of Corporations. Florence D. Scott, Secretary-

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Treasurer."

That was the beginning of years of effort to bring into some semblance of order all things pertaining to a place that had been given to us against a need that was inevitable.

The first step was to provide a fence around the entire square and this was done by contributions of money and by "ways and means" to make more money. Concrete posts were made, and labor donated, by Mr. Harold Graham, and the material for the posts was paid for by funds from the negro Mothers Club headed by Virginia Samuels. The wire fencing was secured through the efforts of Mr. Willard Gabel and members of the Gable families whose forebears were among the original settlers in the village. Through the untiring efforts of Mr. Parker, and many others, the entire nine-acre square was fenced by May of 1930.

For a number of years after that, very little was attempted in the way of improvement. The first change in the trusteeship was occasioned by the death of my mother, Mrs. Annie M. Randall, in March of 1931; Mrs. Annie S. Oliver succeeded her as trustee. Later, Miss Helen L. Graham was selected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Thomas O. Loftus.

In 1942, because of Mr. Parker's failing health and the business demands upon both Miss Graham and Mrs. Oliver, a new group of trustees was elected by members of the association; they were Captain L. A. Scott, Mrs. Helen Stapleton and Mrs. Florence D. Scott, who was also to continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer. Here World War II intervened and demands were made on our time for war work of many kinds.

By 1945, we were able to turn our attention to cemetery needs again and this we did. The secretary began a formal ledger in which were listed all burials insofar as she could secure names and dates from old headstones and from records kept by individual families. It is far from complete, for there were many unmarked graves and no family left to give information, but from 1945 it has been carefully kept.

The route by which funeral processions had to approach the cemetery, as well as the undergrowth within its confines, left much to be desired so work was begun in earnest. Clearing was of prime necessity and it was suggested that, at the same time, a more convenient entrance be established and roadways designed within the cemetery so processions might reach all points easily and continue on their way out with a minimum of confusion. To accomplish this, we were fortunate to have the offer of free engineering services from one Richard Scott and we availed ourselves of that offer from that time forward.

In November, 1945, in the midst of the tremendous task of road clearing, tree-felling, and its consequent disorder, we lost

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

our valiant fellow-worker, Captain L. A. Scott, through an accident at his home. His vacancy on the Board of Trustees was taken by his daughter, Beverly (Mrs. Quitman) Phillips. Shortly after this, Mrs. Helen Stapleton resigned her place as trustee because of ill health and Mr. H. W. Thomson was selected to succeed her.

During these years, many reports and letters were sent to the residents acquainting them with the work being done and soliciting their further assistance. At this point, it might be well to state that there was no regular income for cemetery use. All property owners in the village were entitled to space in the cemetery free of charge when needed. There was an effort to fix a fee, for general maintenance, upon those families who already had lots in use, but the proceeds were inadequate to the task at hand, so we were obliged to request funds from any and all in addition to putting on projects to make money.

In April, 1946, when the work began to take shape for the new entrance and driveways, the County gave us their assistance by grading Sibley Street that led straight from the main highway to the cemetery entrance; they also helped establish the new driveways inside the cemetery. It was our pleasure, at this time, to give in memory of our family, an iron double gate and the brick to make entrance posts. The negro Mens Club gave all the money in their treasury for the erection of the posts and Mr. and Mrs. Oliver gave the urns that sit atop the posts.

In April, 1948, Mrs. Phillips said her health necessitated her resignation and Mrs. Aileen Cosper was selected to succeed her. However, in October of that same year, Mrs. Cosper lost her life in an automobile accident, and Mr. Quitman Phillips was chosen to fill this vacancy. In the spring of 1949, I asked to be relieved of the post of trustee and my husband, Richard J. Scott, was selected by the other trustees to succeed me. I was to continue as Secretary-Treasurer and agreed, also, to continue maintenance supervision.

Each year, since 1949, the Montrose Garden Club has spearheaded a drive for funds to be used in the up-keep of the cemetery and this has been the most heartening thing that has happened to the trustees during the thirty years since their responsibilities began. One especially wonderful year, 1957, the Ways and Means Committee of the Garden Club, with Mrs. P. L. Wilson as its Chairman, gave their entire year's proceeds of over six hundred dollars to the use of the cemetery. This enabled us to complete the clearing of the entire nine acres and begin with beautification; the first step in this direction being made when Mrs. Quitman Phillips gave many beautiful azalea and camellia bushes from her own garden. She was assisted in the placing of these by Mrs. J. Lynn Crawford of the Garden Club. Also, just in time for use in this project, a water supply at the cemetery had been established when Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas generously gave

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

an electric pump and tank for a deep well provided by some of the funds derived from the Garden Club. So many kind things have been done for the welfare of our cemetery that it is possible I have neglected to mention them all; certainly it is not an intentional slight if I have failed to note them here.

It has been my privilege to work with each and every trustee during the past thirty years and, now that they have a five-man Board of Trustees consisting of Messrs. Quitman Phillips, H. W. Thomson, Richard J. Scott, A. C. Stapleton and Howard Rush, I have given into their capable hands whatever duties have been mine.

In Montrose Cemetery, within a wrought-iron enclosure, lies the founder of our village, Cyrus Sibley, after a long and eventful life and far from the place where he was born.

Years ago, even in its state of seeming neglect, our cemetery must have had its air of peace and repose for it inspired the following poem by one of our former residents:

**IN MONTROSE CEMETERY**

Time cometh late or soon  
When I must die,  
Sunlight or careless moon  
Here would I lie.

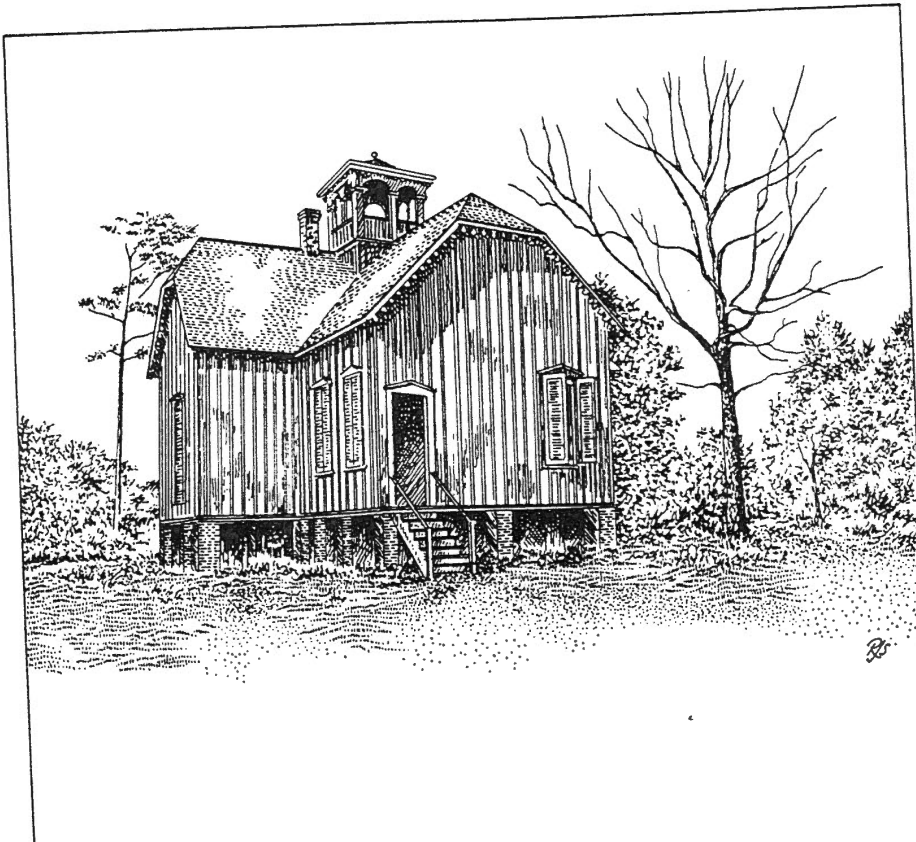
Sleeping as they who sleep  
High on this hill,  
Where matted briars creep  
Tangling at will.

Here is no shadowed lawn,  
No shaft of white  
To prate about a dawn  
After the night.

Roots might grow down to me  
Where cold I lie,  
Bear me back tenderly  
To see the sky.

Forgotten Death and Pain,  
Each vagrant breeze  
Would let me sing again  
With the tall trees.

Helen Gray Kyle



*Montrose Academy ---  
From an old photograph---*

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**MONTROSE ACADEMY**

As stated in a previous chapter, Cyrus Sibley, realizing the need of a growing community by 1856, had deeded property in Square 23 to be used for a school, church and burial place, naming five of the foremost residents as trustees.

After a few years, however, he must have decided that, although it was logical to have a church and burial ground placed together, a school should be on a different location. Therefore, on January 25, 1859, he and his wife, Eliza, deeded to "Austin S. Ledyard, Thomas P. Miller and Armstead M. Elgin, trustees, for one dollar, a piece of land in the Village of Montrose described as Square 12 according to a map of said village surveyed by Gavin B. Yuille recorded in Book E, page 388, and containing nine acres; being bounded on the north by Lee Street, East by Third Street, South by Graham Street and west by Second Street; IN TRUST that said ground is to be held by said Ledyard, Miller and Elgin as trustees and for the sole purpose of building and erecting thereon buildings and improvements necessary and proper for a male and female academy or institution of learning and for no other purpose whatsoever and from and after the building and erecting all said houses and other improvements on said Square 12, then to hold the same, together with all the improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging for the sole use and benefit of the said institution by whatever name the same may hereafter be known or incorporated and it is fully understood that the said institution when established shall ever be open to the admission of scholars or students without reference to sectarianism or creed and, further, that if the said buildings shall not have been erected or a school commenced on the square of ground within ten years from this date or if, having been established, the school or institution should, for any cause, be discontinued for ten consecutive years, then, in either case, this deed shall be null and void and of no effect and the title to the said Square, to-wit, Square 12, shall revert to me or my heirs. Witnesses; Caroline Baldwin and Walter H. Sibley. Recorded March 15, 1859."

Within the time limit, a large frame building had been erected and a New England couple secured to conduct a school. It was called Montrose Academy and was attended by both "male and female" students. An account of the graduation exercises of 1867, which came into my possession years ago, will give some idea of the standards that were maintained in that era:

"THE MONTROSE SCHOOLS: We have received an interesting communication from 'Aristides' in relation to the closing exercises of the schools at Montrose, Eastern Shore, in charge of Professor D. S. Richardson and wife, and regret that its great length and our limited space precludes its publication, and only permits a few extracts. The exercises occupied three days and two nights, all the classes being thoroughly examined. Speaking of the studies and the school, our correspondent says: 'I was

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

pleased to notice a higher range of study than I expected. There was Caesar, Virgil, Ovid, Anabasis, Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, Algebra, Geometry, Rhetoric, Astronomy, Botany, etc. I will only say of the Graduating Class that, although curtailed of their full allotted time, they gave unmistakable evidence, to a scholar, of thorough work. Their names are as follows: Messrs. E. S. Barnes of Montrose; A. B. Stone and Thos. Boone of Mobile, Graduates of the Academic Classical Department; and Miss Laura Dolive of the Academic English Department - Miss Dolive, we are told, deserves special mention, for having completed the prescribed course of study several months in advance of the allotted time. The graduating thesis by Miss Dolive and Miss Mary Covington (whose loss of time by ill health prevented her graduation) and the orations by the young gentlemen were all in excellent taste and evidently original. They generally parcelled out among themselves the Valedictory Honor, each having a word of 'good-bye' either to schoolmates or classmates or teachers, and a tear for all. The address to the class, of the Lady Principal, was chaste and appropriate. The Lady Principal, Mrs. Richardson, stands high above the need of a word of eulogy from me. I will only add, what everybody accords, that her acquirements, both in the solid branches of education and in the fine arts are as complete as they are varied, while she possesses all those attributes of mind and heart which constitute a woman. Well may any state be proud to acknowledge her, and fortunate are those parents who shall entrust their daughters to her care and tuition.'"

Just how many years the Richardsons continued at the head of Montrose Academy, I do not know, but from a conversation with Mr. Robert Stapleton who attended the Academy after the Richardsons had left, I learned that his father, Mr. Edwin Stapleton, and Mr. William Schieffelin of Daphne, both of whom were especially desirous of a school for their sons, on this side of the bay, were instrumental in securing the services of Mr. John Crook of Citronelle to conduct a full term of school about the year 1894. After that, there were two ladies who taught the school, Miss Amelia Schriber and her assistant.

In 1901, Miss Helen Graham taught a full school year there and that was the first school I had attended. I do not remember just how many pupils there were but it seemed a goodly number to me.

Ten years later, my step-father, William D. Randall, together with Harry Pillans and Elliott G. Rickarby, appealed through Chancery Court to be appointed as trustees to succeed Austin S. Ledyard, Thomas P. Miller and Armstead M. Elgin, then deceased. It was so ordered by Chancery Court on July 17, 1911, that said William D. Randall, Harry Pillans and Elliott G. Rickarby take and hold the lot described in said trust deed, subject to the terms thereof, and that they act without bond.



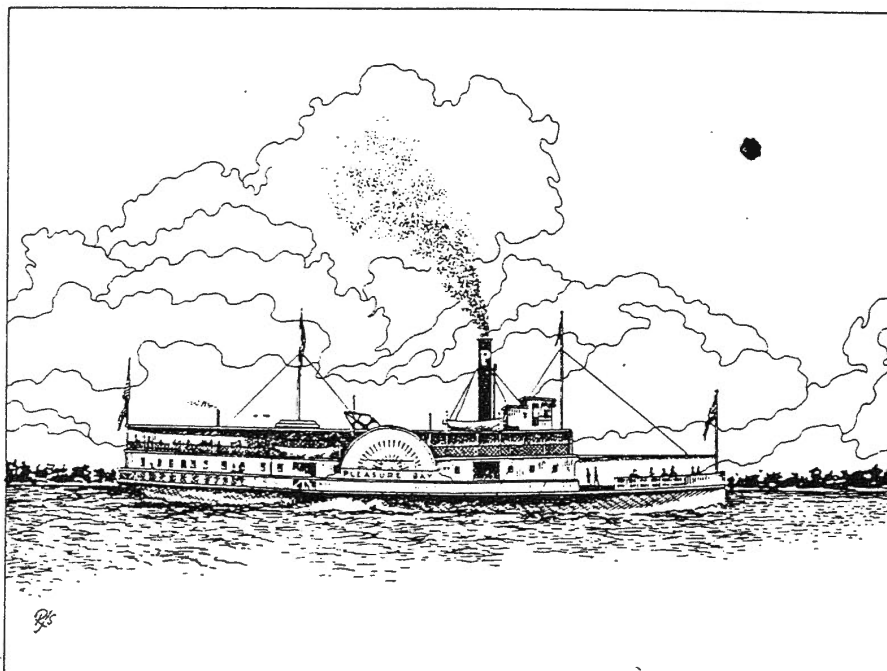
**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Their first act as trustees was to request that a six-weeks summer school be conducted and this was done by Miss Helen Turner and me; Miss Turner was a teacher in the Mobile schools and I was to graduate from the Daphne State Normal School the following year. This secured the school building and property for our community for another ten years.

By 1921 there seemed to be no way to carry out the obligation, or need to try, since there were almost no children in the village; so, through the terms of the deed, the property reverted to the heirs of Cyrus Sibley, and they were many. Before long the building was taken down by some of the heirs and the title came into possession of others.

At the time Mr. Sibley gave the property it fulfilled a real need, but he could not foresee the advent of consolidated schools to which pupils were transported by buss from miles around. Or, maybe he did foresee that there would be a time when his gift would outlive its purpose, and wisely made provision for it.

Be that as it may, the Montrose Academy did serve as a focal point during the years it stood and many memories of many people are wrapped around it. Frequent entertainments were given there; some as a benefit affair to make money when repairs were needed; others purely social. It was the only place in the community where Protestant families might have a place to worship and ministers of various denominations held services there from time to time; also Sunday School seemed to have been conducted there faithfully.



*The Steamer "Pleasure Bay," one of  
the favorite boats serving the Eastern  
Shore prior to 1916*

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

**THE     BAY     BOATS**

In this day of accelerated motion, it is difficult to convey to the uninitiated the pleasure of travel by bayboat to Mobile and back. One did not get up leisurely and, after breakfast, decide to run over for a bit of shopping and be back home in time for lunch; although I'll have to admit I have found this phase of the new order of things mighty convenient. A trip to Mobile was something for which the average person had to plan in advance.

First of all, a list of needs had to be carefully made and that nearly always included staple and special items from the main grocers in Mobile to augment the more-or-less limited stock of those who conducted the local stores. The principal buying of clothes or the material to make them was done in the spring and fall, but there were always incidental needs that could bring about a "trip to town" in between seasons.

Going over in the wintertime meant arising very early, before it was "bright", dressing in ones' best and being at the end of the very long wharf by the time the boat landed at seven-thirty. The cabin on the upper deck of the boat was always heated in winter and often a hot breakfast could be obtained by those who had to leave home before breakfast. The boats usually had a good cook aboard for the convenience of the Captain and the crew who really had to begin their day early as the boat left from Point Clear.

Although the boat would leave Mobile at three o'clock on its return trip each week-day afternoon, having reached there about nine o'clock in the morning, there always seemed to be sufficient time to attend to everything in an orderly and dignified manner; not dashing madly from place to place as we do now. There would be lunch at one of the quiet restaurants or hotel dining rooms and, if the shopping list were completed by then, a little visit could be made with relatives or friends.

Before my time, the boats landed at Montrose only three days a week; later the daily trip became a fixed thing. On Sundays, the boat schedule was reversed and the boat would leave Mobile in the morning and return in the afternoon, thus enabling Mobilians to spend a day on the eastern shore. The fortunate ones had summer homes over here and their visitors frequently came for longer periods. But for those who could only have one day off - this being before the forty-hour week plan - the Sunday trip was a high point. I remember our cool front porch had its usual gathering of Sunday quests each summer.

The hour-and-a-half trip across the bay enabled one to have many visits with friends from other points along the shore and also many romances began and culminated on these trips. The fare was only twenty-five cents per passenger each way until rising costs made it go up gradually; the real income for the boat was made by handling freight. During the days of the Florida real

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

estate boom when automobiles needed to cross the bay on their trek towards the land of promises, the minimum charge for transporting a car by boat was five dollars and the fee was scaled according to the size of the car. It taxed the capacity of all the boats to carry the freight, automobiles and passengers to and fro; then came the bridge and boat business declined.

In addition to my occasional trips to Mobile as a child, clinging to my mother's hand, and my more frequent ones when I was old enough to go with friends or alone, I crossed each week-end for about ten years during my life in the business world. In heat or cold, good weather or storm, I have enjoyed the boat trips and never remember being seasick, no matter how rough it was. During one terrible electric storm, after my escort and I boarded the boat at Daphne to come home to Montrose, Mr. Pillans called me to come on deck and see a most unusual sight. On the flag-pole at the bow of the boat, was a great ball of fire called St. Elmo's fire, so named for the patron saint of sailors; it is a flame-like appearance sometimes seen in stormy weather at prominent points on a ship, and it was the first one I had ever seen.

Some years ago, Miss Celestine Sibley, a feature writer for the Mobile Press Register, did a most interesting article on the bayboats of the past and I am taking the liberty of using parts of it in my next paragraphs.

To the old-timers on both sides of the bay who have watched the shore-to-shore traffic, the names of some of those old boats have magic in them; the Ocean Wave, the Annie, Captain Miller, Heroine, Apollo, Bay Queen and many others.

The Ocean Wave, one of the bravest of the line, operating between Mobile and the eastern shore in the early days, exploded on August 27, 1871, at Point Clear; members of the crew and a large number of excursion passengers were lost. After the Ocean Wave, the business went to the Annie, one of the few craft built exclusively for the eastern shore trade, and a pace-maker. She operated between Mobile and all points along the eastern shore and few of her successors have equalled her speed and efficiency. The Annie met a fate similar to that of the Ocean Wave, burning in front of Grand Hotel at Point Clear before the eyes of her builder and owner, Captain Henry Baldwin. No one was trapped on board or hurt in the fire but summer residents, who were children at the time, vividly recall the excitement caused by the fire.

Another boat in the bay trade during the seventies, (1870) was the Captain Miller, built by Captain Ed Baldwin and notable because she was the first vessel in the service to try out the screw, or propeller, method of locomotion successfully. A small boat appropriately named the Relief, came to fill the need for bay transportation after the Captain Miller was gone. Then came the Heroine, one of the fastest and most colorful; she was built in Glasgow, Scotland, and was used as a blockade runner during the

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Civil War. In addition to her sensational activities, the Heroine possessed an unusual water-wheel, the "feathering bucket" type.

There were many others; the trim little Helen, originally called the Florence Wetherby, after a prominent Washington lobbyist; the Abita; the General Lee that burned at Fairhope about 1913; the Pleasure Bay partly wrecked in the 1916 storm and finally burned on Lake Pontchartrain; the Bay Queen, burned at the foot of Eslava Street. Another article on this boat says that the charred hulk, all that remained of her former glory, was sold to the Mobile and Gulf Navigation Company by L. A. Zieman, who purchased her after the fire, and she was destined to end her days as a prosaic derrick barge.

The Louis Dolive, and old revenue cutter that formerly bore the name of the Seward, and the James A. Carney, which also went down at the foot of Dauphin Street in the 1916 storm, were both owned by my aunt, Mrs. James A Carney, the former Miss Ann Dolive, and they were named for her father and her husband. The Eastern Shore celebrated the end of her career as Mobile Bay's last pleasure boat by taking a load of delegates to the sheriffs' convention on an excursion to Fort Morgan. After that she was sold at auction and, like many of the ones that went before her, probably found less dignified and romantic employment.

Of course there were still other boats that took part in the bay trade; an old clipping for week-ending June 14, 1881, states that "Finnegan and Stone have placed the steamer, Sunbeam, in the eastern shore trade, F. S. Stone, master, and Ed Baldwin, clerk" and I can recall the Caloosa, the Manatee, the Charles A. Cessna, the Lucille, the Josie and the Daphne.

The captains of these boats were interesting and picturesque figures, indeed, and among those mentioned as serving at various times through the years were Captain Frank Lumsdun, a frequent visitor to my grandmother's home when I was a child; Captains Buck Curran, Billy O'Neal, John Clark, Jack Harrub, Tom Deering, Jim O'Neal, Charlie Loftus of Montrose, Lief Roberts and his nephew Ed Roberts, Tony Marcelline-Ressijac, and Captain Joe Pose, whom I remember best of all.

"Cap'n Joe", as he was called by all who knew him, began when he was fourteen years old as a deckhand and having a natural aptitude for bayboating, he climbed rapidly to the status of mate, then pilot and later, master and owner. The first boat of which he was the master, was the James A. Carney and after that the Pleasure Bay; both boats were then owned by the Bay Steamship Company and after working for the company ten years, Captain Joe became owner of this first boat, the two-hundred-passenger Daphne.

Later came the New Daphne and then his last boat, the Josie, bringing to a close twenty-eight years of bayboating, and retirement for Captain Joe.

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

Like all captains in the bay trade, he was called upon by men, women and children to attend to errands in Mobile for them. I remember running down the wharf at Daphne with a school friend one morning; she thrust a dollar bill into Captain Joe's hand just as the gang-plank was being pulled away and said "Cap'n Joe, please get me some stuff for a skirt!" When the boat returned that afternoon, she was handed a package containing proper yardage in a black and white "Shepherd's Check" and that became her favorite skirt.

An incident was told me by Captain Joe a few years ago with a great deal of relish; one night he was awakened in the middle of the night to make an immediate trip to Mobile and take Mrs. G. A. Moses of Montrose for an emergency operation. He dressed quickly, even to the traditional Windsor tie and the trip was made in time for a safe connection with the hospital. Later that morning, while down town, one of his friends said "Joe what kind of a tie is that?" He was a little nettled, for he always wore the same kind, but when he glanced down, he saw that in his haste he had picked up one of his wife's black silk stockings and was wearing it with complete nonchalance.

Captain Joe, in an interview with Howard Johnson, feature writer for the Mobile Press Register ten years ago, said that the worst trip he ever made over the seemingly peaceful looking bay was when the July 5, 1916, hurricane struck at Mobile and the eastern shore. He said "I can shut my eyes and relive that three-hour trip. It was the day after the Fourth of July and most of the passengers were Mobilians wanting to get home. Among the passengers on board were Judge Claude A. Grayson, Ernest Ladd and Mayor Pillans. I wouldn't have ventured the trip but the passengers were mostly old commuters of mine and I knew I could make it. When we hit the center of the channel the waves and winds began to tackle the progress of the Josie. I had to keep one window of the pilot house down as as to see and the waves were dashing that high and the water lashed in. When I docked in Mobile I was standing knee deep in water."

In this same interview, he said he believed that he was the only bayboatman ever presented a silver loving-cup as a token of appreciation and esteem for his work as master of a bayboat. It was presented him on a Christmas night at the St. Francis Street Wharf by merchants and commuters from Mobile and Baldwin Counties. "I was never so surprised to get such a present in all my life; inside the cup was money taken up by volunteer subscription. That cup is my prized mantel piece."

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Sibley Family**

These are just a few chapters from this book, so those who are interested may have the pleasure of reading about all the families in Montrose at that time. This book is no longer in print but the various libraries have a copy on their shelves.  
(1993)

Happy Reading  
Vivian